Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Move Might Mean General Motors To Give Race Jobs

Circular Discloses Dire Need for Skilled Workers

MAY 21 1941

By ROBERT A. CRUMP

DETROIT—(ANP)—That Negroes might at long last get a chance to work as skilled artisans in General Motors plants, on jobs heretofore denied them loomed over the past week as General Motors corporation sent letters and questionnaires to its 160,000 automotive employes telling them there is a crying need for many skilled laborers on defense production in its plants amounting to $750.000.000.

The letter implies that skilled men within the plants will be given preference before more men are hired. The letter says in part: "Every possible facility of the corporation that is needed must be used—buildings, tools, machines, etc. But the greater importance is the 'know how' of the trained personnel available for responsible positions. General Motors is fortunate in having so large a group of men with this practical training.

"In order that we may have the complete facts as to men qualified and available for special work we are giving you an opportunity of filling out the attached questionnaire."

The questionnaire, which makes no designation as to race lists a great number of skilled jobs. Just how many colored men within the plants will be able to qualify for some of these jobs is, of course, not known but the significant thing is that if the barriers are being let down, it may offer a chance to those who are prepared for special work to break through when the corporation brings in skilled men from the outside.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Negroes Will Man One Unit

Agreement Calls For an Entire Assembly Line

AUG 8 1941

ST. LOUIS — (Special) Scores of applications are coming into the office of Arnold Walker, executive secretary of the St. Louis Urban League, both young and old persons desirous of qualifying for the 40 executive positions which will be made available with the opening of the U.S. Cartridge Company plant, now under construction at Bircher and Goodfellow.

The huge project, which is expected to employ some 17,000 persons, is now being received in a favorable light by local race people following the announcemeent by Walker that officials of the company had worked out with him an agreement whereby a large number of Negroes will be given jobs.

At the present time, some 750 members of the racial group are now at work, helping in the erection of the buildings and grounrs which should be ready to start production work on a large scale early in the fall.

Under the agreement worked out, an entire assembly line, or one plant building, will be completely manned by Negroes, giving the racial group a chance to show just what it can do in the way of production. In such a set-up some 1500 persons working in such executive capacities as supervisors, foremen and adjusters.

This group of 400 must be trained before the main group can start work, and applications are now being received at the Urban League, 3017 Delmar, between now and August 21, the date when the next conference will be held between League officials and executives of the U. S. Cartridge Co. A training period for the supervisory group is planned, the 400 chosen for the course receiving compensation at the rate of 55 cents per hour while in training.

Qualified persons are advised to come in immediately to sign up for the training course. ,specially wanted are men with mechanical background. those who have had actnal experience as macrinists and those who have had one, two, three or forr years in college and who have aptitudes as teachers to instruct others to use the machines or to direct activities.

In addition to those to be used in the production assembly line, hundreds of others will be given employment in all parts of the plant on such jobs as shipping clerks, drivers, porters, janitors, messengers, etc.

Later on, it is stated, several hundred women will be hired at the plant.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Lower Defense Jobs Bars In Kansas City, Missouri Area; Negroes Get Jobs

35b

Are Admitted to Carpenters and Bricklayers Union

131 Negroes Employed In One Week

AUG 9 1941

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(ANP)—Several hundred Negro building trades workers are now employed on various defense projects in this area as a result of the removal of trade union bans against them in local labor unions, Thomas A. Webster, executive secretarv of the Kansas City Urban league reported this week to the Office of Production Management.

As a result of the activity of the Negro employment and training branch of OPM, Negroes have been admitted to the carpenters and bricklayers unions in that area, and an agreement has been reached for their admission into the painters union through an all-Negro local similar to the one formed by the carpenters in Greater Kansas City.

According to Mr. Webster's report, 131 Negroes, including 24 carpenters and several hod carriers were employed last week in the construction of the North American Aviation factory in Kansas City, Mo. The Patti Brothers company is erecting this project. One Negro foreman is in charge of a mixed crew on this job.

More than 430 Negro building construction workers are employed in the erection of the Lake City Ammunition plant near Kansas City, including 100 hod carriers, five bricklayers, 26 carpenters and more than 300 laborers, plumbers and heavy construction laborers. Negro painters are expected to be employed on the job soon as the result of an agreement reached with the Painters District council.

The council has agreed to permit the Negro painters to apply for an A. F. of L. charter so that they may work on union jobs in this area.

The Office of Production Management entered the trade union picture in this area when Negroes were barred from working on the closed shop construction job at Fort Riley, Kan. As a result of OPM intervention, the Negroes were granted an A. F. of L. charter and permitted to work on the Fort Riley job. Since then more than 100 Negro carpenters have worked on closed shop jobs at Fort Leonard Wood and at other sites in this area.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Job Placements For Negroes Gain

AUG 11 1941

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—(AP)—A 47 per cent increase in the placement of Negro workers through state employment offices during the first five months of 1941 as compared with the similar period last year was reported today by Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

Placement of Negroes totaled 414,595 in the five months which was 20 per cent of all placements made by the state offices, McNutt said.

35b

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

LOWER DEFENSE JOB BARS IN KANSAS CITY

430 Bldg. Workers Hired

35b

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(ANP)—Several hundred Negro building trades workers are now employed on various defense projects in this area as a result of the removal of trade union bans against them in local labor unions, Thomas A. Webster, executive secretary of the Kansas City Urban league reported this week to the Office of Production Management.

OPM Active

As a result of the activity of the Negro employment and training branch of OPM Negroes have been admitted to the carpenters and bricklayers unions in that area, and an agreement has been reached for their admission into the painters union through an all-Negro local similar to the one formed by the carpenters in Greater Kansas City.

According to Mr. Webster's report, 131 Negroes, including 24 carpenters and seven hod carriers, were employed last week in the construction of the North American Aviation factory in Kansas City, Mo. The Patti Brothers company is erecting this project. One Negro foreman is in charge of a mixed crew on this job.

430 Workers Employed

More than 430 Negro building construction workers are employed in the erection of the Lake City Ammunition plant near Kansas City, including 100 hod carriers, five bricklayers, 26 carpenters and more than 300 laborers, plumbers and heavy construction laborers. Negro painters are expected to be employed on the job as soon as the result of an agreement reached with the painters' district council. The council has agreed to permit the Negro painters to apply for an AFL charter so that they may work on union jobs in this area.

The Office of Production Management entered the trade union picture in this area when Negroes were barred from working on the closed shop construction job at Fort Riley, Kans. As a result of OPM intervention, the Negroes were granted an AFL charter and permitted to work on the Fort Riley job. Since then more than 100 Negro carpenters have worked on closed shop jobs at Fort Leonard Wood and at other sites in this area.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Gains Shown In Placing Negro Labor

354

WASHINGTON, [AP]—A 47 per cent increase in the placement of Negro workers through state employment offices during the first five months of 1941 as compared with the similar period last year was reported Sunday by Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

Placement of Negroes totaled 414,595 in the five months which was 20 per cent of all placements made by the state offices, McNutt said.

The reports indicated, he added, that Negro placements "now appear to be increasing somewhat faster than that of other workers, in contrast with the trend heretofore." From April to May placements of Negroes increased 15 per cent, whereas such job finding for other persons was up only 12 per cent.

President Roosevelt asked several months ago that employers give jobs to Negroes, declaring there should be no race discrimination in defense work.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

JOBS FOR NEGROES GAIN

McNutt Issues Figures Showing Rising Rate of Placements

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—Reports that the reservoir of Negro workers was not being duly used were counteracted by figures issued today by Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

Mr. McNutt reported that in the first five months of this year placements of Negro workers were 47 per cent higher than in the 1940 period. He added that in May, Negro placements increased 15 per cent over the April total, while placements of white workers increased 12 per cent, indicating that placement of Negroes was increasing at the faster rate.

In New York State, for January to May inclusive, placements of white workers increased 79 per cent over the same months of last year, while placements of Negroes increased 111 per cent. In Connecticut placements of Negroes were almost 200 per cent higher than in the 1940 period and placements of white workers 77 per cent higher.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Jobs for Negroes Are Increasing, U. S. Service Finds

35b

Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt announced yesterday that placement of Negro workers by the District employment office was 52 per cent higher from January to May of this year than in the corresponding period last year.

Reports to the administrator by the Social Security Board indicate that placement of Negroes is increasing somewhat faster than that of other workers, in contrast to the trend heretofore.

For Maryland, the increase this year over last was 85 per cent and in Virginia it was 87 per cent.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Job Placements Of Negroes Rise 47% in 5 Months

35b

A 47 per cent increase in the placement of Negro workers through State emplyoment offices during the first five months of 1941 as compared with the similar period last year was reported yesterday by Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

Placement of Negroes totaled 414,595 in the five months, which was 20 per cent of all placements made by the State offices, McNutt said.

The reports indicated, he added that Negro placements "now appear to be increasing somewhat faster than that of other workers, in contrast with the trend heretofore." From April to May placements of Negroes increased 15 per cent, whereas such job finding for other persons was up only 12 per cent.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Openings For Youth 12 to 22

35

Applications Must Be Made By August 27

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP).—Negro youths who wish to become skilled merchants may do so and also earn $3.20 a day while being trained by applying for apprentice training at the Washington Navy yard. A test for apprentices between the ages of 12 and 22 has just been announced by the U. S. Ciivl Service commission.

Application blanks, which must be filed before August 27, may be obtained from any first- or second-class postoffice in the United States. Residents of the Washington area should apply through the fourth civil servce district.

Examination for positions which are now open in 17 different trades, consists of a general intelligence test and a physical examination. Applicants are accepted in the general order of their rating, as the navy department does not exercise a one-in-three rule in filling vacancies.

More than a score of Negro apprentices who finished training at the Washington navy yard were employed there as machinists last February after Dr. Weaver, then an administrative assistant to Sidney Hillman in the National Defense Advisory commission, investigated reports of discrimination against Negroes in the navy yard. At the same time, another score of Negro youths were admitted to apprentice training there. Many of these have graduated into regular employment at daily wages of from $7.48 to $8.44.

At that time, several of the Negro enrollees credited part of their success in finishing the apprentice course and receiving civil service appointments to the director of the apprentice school. According to these youths, the director made special efforts to protect them from unfair charges of incompetency which were made by prejudiced supervisors.

35c-1941

ALABAMA

Ala

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Mechanics At Work

MAR 11 1941

Out in the Ensley area several dozen Negro mechanics have been earning their living doing work on homes of members of their own race. It is a rare sight to see more than two or three members of the race employed as skilled mechanics on jobs contracted for by Negroes.

(35c) Ala.

For several years the race had endeavored to secure its share of jobs for skilled mchanics on housing projects and other federal jobs here in the Birmingham district. To a degree the leadership has been successful but it is a mighty healthy sign to see Negro home-owners employing these mechanics on jobs once almost exclusively given to others.

MAR 11 1941

Out in the Ensley area the Gaillard Plumbing and Heating Co., has some fourteen plumbing skilled mechanics at work. Their presence indicate that other mechanics such as painters, paperhangers, carpenters and others can get work. Their presence is a tribute to the housewives and husbands of the Ensley area who give first choice to members of their own group. When home-owners all of the district secure their FHA loans through Negro mechanics and contractors the day will not be far off when as a group we can stop complaining about the lack of opportunities for our qualified race members.

We salute the Ensley home-owners for their choice and recommend their example to other sections of this city and this land of ours.

—Birmingham (Ala.) World

35c

35c-1941

ARKANSAS

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WIN FIGHT TO PLACE SKILLED RACE WORKERS

JAN 11 1941

Urban League's Campaign Bears Fruit At Camp Robinson Project

NEW YORK—Negro skilled workers, at first passed over when they applied for national defense jobs at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, outside of Little Rock, Ark., are now being employed in a variety of jobs, according to the Little Rock Urban League. The league has been active in securing consideration for local Negro workers on national defense contracts.

Last fall when construction work on Camp Robinson first began, the Little Rock Urban League discovered that, though white carpenters were being referred to the employing contractors in large numbers, no Negroes had been so referred.

Clifford E. Minton, executive secretary, immediately got in touch with the National Urban League and the local organization in St. Louis, since the main headquarters of the construction company was located in that city.

As a result of prompt cooperative action by three officers, the St. Louis company agreed to employ Negroes and the Arkansas State Employment officials agreed to refer qualified Negro carpenters to the Camp Robinson job.

The latest report of Minton gives the following information: At least 50 Negro carpenters are now on the job at Camp Robinson, together with about 15 Negro concrete finishers, who earn $1.25 per hour, several Negro bricklayers and at least one Negro plumber. The latter worker was originally referred to the camp as a laborer, but through league

---

cago, grand keeper of records, and exchequer; Donald L. Hollowell, Lane college, Jackson, Tenn., grand

fined in the anti-trust laws. The high court held otherwise.

The outcome of the trial, which may last for a considerable length of time, will be watched with great interest by persons interested in cooperative health programs.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Carpenters' Union Discriminates Against Race Labor

MAR 31 1941

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(SNS)—

Efforts of Negro skilled workers who have sought employment on the North Little Rock Housing Project have so far ended in failure. When race workers first made application for work on the project they were informed by officials that only skilled laborers with union affiliations were eligible for that class of work. Attempts of local carpenters to secure a charter from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, American Federation of Labor, had resulted in action on the part of National officials of that organization favorable to the extent that a date had been set for the instaliation of the charter when a sudden about face of policy was exhibited and the charter was refused. Reason for this, as nearly as could be determined by subsequent investigations, was that protests had been made to the national office by Local No. 690 (white) against the issuing of a charter to the proposed Negro organization. Basis of these protests have not yet been determined.

MAR 31 1941

It is believed that the situation thus created is unlawful, as section 43 of the General Conditions of the contract between the general contractors on the Housing Project and the Housing Authority of the City of North Little Rock contains the following provision:

"There shall be no discrimination because of race, creed, color, or political affiliation in the employment of persons for work on this project."

Also, section 18 of the same document provides as follows:

"Discrimination: For the purpose of determining whether discrimination ras been made in regard to Negro labor in violation of the provisions of section 43 of the General Conditions it is hereby provided that, if the contractor pays to Negro skilled labor at least 18 percent of the total amount paid in any period of four weeks under the contract for all skilled labor (irrespective of individual trades), and 75 percent to Negro unskilled labor, it shall be considered prima facie evidence that the contractor has not discriminated against Negro labor."

It has also been learned from authoritative sources that employment of union labor in the construction of USHA-aide projects is optional with the contractor. (The contractors on the North Little Rock project are Wiliam Peterson, General Contractors and Linebarger Construction Company). It is clear then, that where contractors elect to use the unions as a source of labor supply, it is necessary for Negro workers to establish union affiliations before they can be employed. However, in spite of the contract provisions quoted above, it still remains that skilled laborers are not employed on the project as such, as a direct result of the established fact that the Carpenters' Union has refused admittance to Negroes.

Supervisors on the project have refused to make official comment, but assert that 9$ percent of the unskilled laborers used are Negroes and that Negro cement finishers are used.

All Negro carpenters and skilled workers plying other trades should cooperate in trying to rectify this situation. All persons or organizations desirous or registering protests or of securing information regarding the natter should write to any or all of the following persons:

MAR 31 1941

Mr. Lawrence Berger, Executive Director, North Little Rock Housing Authority, North Little Rock, Ark.

MAR 31 1941

Mr. A. Maceo Suith, Racial Relations Adviser, United States Housing Authority, Electric Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

President Franklin R. Roosevelt, Washington, D. C..

Mr. H. M. Thackery, Secretary-Treasurer, Arkansas Federation of Labor, 1121 1-2 W. Markham St., Little Rock, Ark.

Mr. William L. Hutcheson, General President, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Nathan Straus, Administrator, United States Housing Authority, Washington, D. C.

Linebarger Construction Company, Rector Building, Little Rock, Ark.

William Peterson Company General Contractors, Commerical National Bank Building, Little Rock, Ark.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

WON'T LET NEGRO CARPENTERS JOIN, EXCLUDING THEM FROM JOBS ON NEW HOUSING PROJECT

Federal Housing Authority Says Negroes Must Have 18 Per Cent of Skilled Labor Work But A.F. of L. Union Says 'No'

By Thomas Earl

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ~~Ark.—The~~ Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, A. F. of L., is denying Negroes membership in this section and thus is preventing them from getting jobs in the construction of the North Little Rock housing project.

The policy of the United States shall be Negro labor is being rend- of the skilled labor on the project Housing Authority that 18 per cent ered null and void by the Carpenters' Union.

There are definite specifications in the loan contract between U.S.H.A. and the local Housing Authority that set up percenetages of skilled and unskilled work to be given Negroes on population basis.

In the case of the North Little Rock Housing Project, section 43 of the general conditions of the contract between the general contractors on project Ark-2-1 and the Housing Authority of the City of North Little Rock provides that:

MAY 30 1941

> "Thre shall be no discrimination because of race, creed, color, or political affiliation in the employment of persons for work on this project."

Section 18 in the same document provides as follows:

> **"Discrimination: For the purpose of determining whether discrimination has been made in regard to Negro labor in violation of the provision of section 4 of the General Conditions, it is hereby provided that, if the contractor pays to Negro skilled labor at least 18 per cent of the total amount paid in any period of 4 weeks under the contract for all skilled labor irrespective of individual trades and 75 per cent to Negro unskilled labor, it shall be considered prima facie evidence that the contractor has not discriminated against Negro labor."**

These definite specifications are rendered null and void because the contract further provides:

> **"That nothing herein contained shall preclude any contractor or employer from making an agreement with the labor organization to require, as a condition of employment, membership therein."**

MAY 30 1941

In this instance, the case of Negroes being employed and receiving 18 per cent of the skilled work as provided in the general contract is dependent upon union affiliation which has up to this date been denied them despite their qualification for union membership and persistent efforts to secure it.

In the case of carpenters, who represent the largest group of Negro skilled workers in the construction trades, representatives of the Carpenters Union, from the president of the local Union up to the president of the International, have been repeatedly requested to permit the affiliation of Negro carpenters.

Their only reply has been that it would disrupt matters if Negroes were granted membership in the existing local or to issue a separate charter for a local Negro Union. The Negro carpenters have made it known in definite terms that they believe in the principles or organized labor and are not seeking union memberships for any special jobs. Their application for membership in the union was made prior to the beginning of the Housing Project.

The U.S.H.A. does not appear to be able to execute its racial policy. Full reports on the case have been made to the U.S.H.A. Their influence on the case in urging that labor unions open their doors to Negroes so as to make their racial policy effective has been without any definite results.

Since all members of U.S.H.A. and labor representatives have had the case placed before them for adjustment, and ample time has been given for effective action, a citizens' committee sponsored by the Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance has filed a petition which carries several hundred signatures with the President of the United States protesting the situation faced by Negro workers and requesting his influence to secure for Negroes the quota of work definitely set up for them in the loan contract specifications, and to help make democracy more nearly a reality in America.

MAY 30 1941

Negro workers who reported for employment on the project were told that they must have union membership. The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, A. F. of L. has denied them membership.

35c-1941 A.F.L.

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Indiana AFL Fights Bill Barring Job Jim Crow

MAR 14 1941

New York—In reply to a telegram informing him that AFL unions in Indiana were opposing a bill in the state legislature which would bar from collective bargaining any union which maintains a lily-white membership, William Green, A. F. of L. president has wired the NAACP that the unions are opposing the bill because it "would destroy collective bargaining between employers and emplayees."

The Indiana House has passed unanimously, by a vote of 62-0 bill No. 445, designed to remove discrimination against Negroes in the plants having national defense contracts.

A. F. of L. Unions, which are largely of the craft variety, and which bar Negroes from membership more consistently than C. I. O. unions, are opposing this bill.

MAR 14 1941

The NAACP also learned that the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce was opposing the bill vigorously. NAACP secretary Walter White sent a telegram to James S. Kemper, president of the United States Chamber of Com-
will give men a chance to work—that will give youth a future and old age a security.

By the promise of these things, brutes have risen to power. But they lied! They do not fulfill that promise. They never will! Dictators freed themselves but they enslaved the people! Now let us fight to free the world—to do away with national barriers—to do away with greed, with hate and intolerance. Let us fight for a world of reason—a world where science—

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

A.F.L. HEAD ACTS ON RACE DISCRIMINATION

President Green Moves to Get Information On Restriction Against Colored Workers In the A.F.L. Unions

35f

As a result of the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt on June 25th, under which a Fair Employment Practice Committee has been established composed of six members of which William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor is one, a questionnaire has been sent out by President Green to all national and international unions for the securing information about the number of Negroes who are members of AFL unions the extent to which Negroes participate in the committees that run and regulate the activities of the unions and the extent to which Negroes attend the various national convention. Questions such as the following are included in the questionnaire:

AUG 8 1941

Is there any requirements in constitution of your organization requiring citizenship — creating any discrimination against Negroes — creating discrimination against any other race—prohibiting any discriminiation because of race? If so, please quote the provision. If not, is there a provision prohibiting discriminaton —please quote.

Is there any provision in your by-laws, ritual or elswhere requiring discrimination against Negroes? Any other race? Quote provision.

AUG 8 1941

Are your local unions authorized to make their own regulations on such standards?

Are Negroes employed in your jurisdiction?

Does discrimination exist regardless of constitution or rules.

Are Negroes employed on the same work jobs as the white members of your union?

Are they employed on skilled work—semi-skilled—unskilled?

Are Negroes permitted to become apprentice in your jurisdiction? If so, are there any?

Are there Negro learners employed in your jurisdiction who are getting related instruction in the schools?

AUG 8 1941

Is there any difficulty getting the schools to give Negroes instruction supplementing work training?

Give approximately your Negro membership? What percent of your total membership?

Are Negroes organized in separate unions?

Do you have Negro organizers?

Have Negro representatives been elected to your national executive board? If so, give number, names and offices.

Is there any wage differential in the case of Negroes?

Are Negro members admitted into all divisions of your jurisdiction? If excluded for any reason, state reason and why.

AUG 8 1941

Are your Negro members in the South—the North?

Is segregation favored by the Negroes—by the whites?

Do Negro members office in local unions? Approximate no. of locals?

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

President William Green Moves To Get Information From AFL Unions On Race Discrimination

AUG 25 1941

As a result of the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt on June 25th, under which a Fair Employment Practice Committee has been established composed of six members of which William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor is one, a questionnaire has been sent out by President Green to all national and international unions for the purpose of securing information about the number of Negroes who are members of AFL unions, the extent to which Negroes participate in the committees that run and regulate the actiivties of the unions and the extent to which Negroes attend the various national conventions.

Questions such as the following are included in the questionnaire:

Is there any requirement in the constituion of your organization requiring citizenship—creating any discrimination against Negroes—creating discrimination against any other race—prohibiting any discrimination because of race? If so, please quote the provision. If not, is there a provision prohibiting discrimination—please quote.

Is there any provision in your by-laws, ritual or elsewhere requiring discrimination against Negroes? Any other race? Quote provision.

Are your local unions authorized to make their own regulations on such standards?

Are Negroes employed in your jurisdiction?

217

Does discrimination exist regardless of constitution or rules?

Are Negroes employed on the same work or jobs as the white members of your union?

Are they employed on skilled work—semi-skilled—unskilled?

AUG 25 1941

Are Negroes permitted to become apprentices in your jurisdiction? If so, are there any?

Are there Negro learners employed in your jurisdiction who are getting related instruction in the schools?

Is there any difficulty getting the schools to give Negroes instrucion supplementing work training?

Give approximately your Negro membership? What percent of your total membership?

Are Negroes organized in separate unions?

Are Negro members organized in unions with white workers?

Do you have Negro organizers?

Have Negro representatives been elected to your national executive board? If so, give number, names and offices.

Is there any wage differential in the case of Negroes?

Are Negro members admitted into all divisions of your jurisdiction? If excluded for any reason, state reason and why.

Are your Negro members in the

South—the North?

Is segregation favored by the Negroes—by the whites?

Do Negro members hold office in local unions? Approximate No. of locals?

Approximate number or proportion of officials? If possible, list unions having Negro officials, giving office and name of Negro holding it.

Do you have Negro members elected as representatives in conventions?

Name of organization reporting—Official—Title.

Commenting on the questionnaire, A. Philip Randolph, director of the March on Washington Committee, said:

"This is a healthy and constructive step on the part of President Green of the American Federation of Labor, in attempting to determine the extent to which Negroes are victims of discriminations practiced by trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, so that this information will be available for the Fair Employment Practice Committee in attempting to meet this question of discriminations against Negroes by the trade unions.

"This is the most comprehensive and far-reaching step yet taken by the American Federation of Labor to gather reliable and vital data on this question. The time is come when something will have to be done about discriminations against Negroes by trade unions and we are glad to see President Green taking this step to get the material which may constitute a basis for sound, constructive and statesmanlike action in the abolition of all discriminations in the trade union movement on account of race, creed, color or national origin."

[illegible] 25 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Transit Co. Won't Hire Conductors

NOV 8 1941

WASHINGTON.

The old bugaboo of racial prejudice and discrimination was blamed this week by a spokesman of the Capital Transit Company for that corporation's failure to employ colored men as street car operators.

The statement was made in answer to an AFRO inquiry which was prompted by reports that the the company had applied to the Public Utilities Commission for permission to change approximately 161 two-man cars to one-man trolleys because of a labor shortage.

Asked whether the contract with the A.F. of L. union prevented the hiring of colored men, the personnel director of the company declared:

"There is nothing in the contract which says that we cannot employ white, colored, Mongolian, or anyone else."

600 New Employees

Revealing that between six and seven hundred new street car conductors had been hired since the first of the year, the director stated that no colored men had applied for the jobs, but admitted that if they had, they would have been refused on the basis of race.

"The fundamental policy in the capital is one of segregation," explained the personnel head, "if the churches can educate the people to think more fairly, all right. But we cannot fly in the face of the community and its prejudice."

Blames Union Contract

Pressed on the point, as to why when 27 per cent of the population of Washington was colored, operators could not be placed in predominantly colored neighborhoods, the director pointed out that a contract completed with the union two years ago forbade such placement.

"This contract provided that work could be selected by the men in accordance with seniority," he explained, "and they do not care which neighborhoods they work in, if they can get preferred work, where they get all of their hours together."

Asked whether or not the men joined the union before or after they were employed, he admitted that they joined it afterward, and that the union customarily accepted whomever was employed.

NOV 8 1941

Employs Only Laborers

The official added that the Capital Transit was one of the largest, if not the largest, single private employer of colored laborers and skilled workers in the capital, but reluctantly agreed that the colored population was not represented in any degree in any of its professional branches.

The transit company has advertised in the daily newspapers, on bulletins in its street cars and buses, and in other ways to obtain new operators.

35c-1941

CALIFORNIA

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

White Aircraft Workers Hit Jim Crow In Industry

LOS ANGELES,—(CNA) —Jim Crow policies in the "aircraft and national defense industries" were roundly condemned here this week by the Vultee aircraft unit, Local 683, CIO United Auto Workers.

The union adopted a resolution vowing to "do all in its power to break the anti-labor. racial discrimination in the aircraft and national defense industries."

And at the same time, it protested the fact that here are no more han half a dozen Negroes now working in all of the Southern California aircraft plants employing more tran 60,000 workers today.

JAN 18 1941

The Local also adopted a resolution "apologizing to the Negro people" for the exclusion of several Negro members and their guests at the Local's recent dance. The resolution stated that the barring of Negroes from the dance was "in direct contradiction to the national CIO policy of no discrimination because of race, color, creed, nationality or political affiliation."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Two Jailed on Coast for Demanding Negro Jobs

FEB 20 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

OAKLAND, Feb. 19.—Mrs. Lorine King and Art Weld went to jail today for 25 days each for the "crime" of campaigning for jobs for Negroes in West Oakland.

But they went smiling, taking with them the gratitude of the local organization of the National Negro Congress and many other groups, which had attempted to pay their $100 fines to keep them out of jail.

FEB 20 1941

Weld and Mrs. Kinz turned down the offer to pay the fines, elected to go to jail instead, asked that the Congress use the money collected to pursue a campaign to secure jobs for Negroes in "defense" industries.

"It is more necessary to continue this campaign for jobs for Negroes than to raise money for fines," declared Mrs. Kinz.

The two defendants, both of whom are white, surrendered in Municipal Judge Chris B. Fox's court this morning, in company with Attorney Herbert Resner.

Commenting on the case, Resner declared:

"It was a miscarriage of justice from the outset. The prosecution was started for the purpose of breaking up the campaign to get jobs for Negroes in West Oakland, and also to prevent joint community efforts of both Negroes and whites.

FEB 20 1941

"The decision was an unconstitutional application of the law, since the evidence showed no crime had been committed."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

"Can't Make Us Hire Skilled Negroes," California Co. Says

35c

JUL 10 1941

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Sworn evidence of discrimination in the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation here will be read into the Congressional Record by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas one of the backers of Senate Resolution 75, which proposes investigation of discrimination in the national defense program.

An affidavit revealing that Edgar N. Gott, publicity director and vice-president of the corporation, told officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peope that the company "would not employ Negroes skilled and semi-skilled jobs; he did not believe that white skilled workers would work with Negroes in his plant, and that, as a private corporation, they hired whom they pleased, and the United States government could not make them do otherwise," was sent to Senator Capper Wednesday, April 30, by the NAACP after Gott protested when an article from the New York Post by Walter White, NAACP secretary, quoting the statements was read into the record.

JUL 10 1941

Gott complained it was untrue that he had made the statements which show his company's racially biased policy.

He said, "We have in the past employed Negroes in positions which they as individuals, were capable of filling and will continue to do so."

The NAACP learned last week what positions the aircraft company considers Negroes capable of filling. There are nine Negroes employed there as lavatory janitors while the total of all employees is about 16,000.

Additional evidence of the company's anti-Negro attitude is the experience of Wiliam A. Dickinson, Jr., Bakersfield, Calif. Employment was offered by Consolidated to all graduates of the Bakersfield junior college who had completed a course in aircraft metal work. Mr. Dickinson completed his course with a straight 'B' average. Six of his fellow students were given employment by Consolidated. Dickinson was curtly informed by Consolidated that "No Negroes are accepted."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEGRO CUSTODIANS ARE SATISFACTORY TO AIRCRAFT PLANT

AUG 23 1941

35c

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 21.—Colored workers were voluntarily employed nearly a year ago by Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, of San Diego, Calif., according to J. H. Waterbury, its personnel director.

Consolidated is one of the 56 corporations having defense supply contracts with the War and Navy Departments for almost three-fourths of the total volume of such contracts, according to a compilation made by the Bureau of Research and Statistics, Office of Production Management. It ranks eighth among such corporations with contracts totaling $[illegible]000.

AUG 23 1941

HIRES 75

Besides the plant at San Diego, Consolidated will operate a new government-owned plant at Fort Worth, Texas, under a contract awarded it by the War Department for the production of heavy bombers at a cost of $163,640,000.

Mr. Waterbury made his statement in reply to a questionnaire. Its full text is as follows:

"In October of 1940, we at Consolidated, sensed the need for offering employment opportunities to colored workers, and at that time hired the first of a group now approximating 75 in number.

"This action was taken voluntarily, without forceful or outside influence, and the details of the program were worked out with the full cooperation of a local colored groups.

GET EQUAL PAY

"The colored men so employed were placed at work in our custodial department identical to that which formerly had been performed by white persons, and at identically the same rates of pay.

"The performance of these men on the job has been most satisfactory and confirms the faith we had in the colored race when we first offered employment to colored men. Our program for the future as regards colored workers, will undoubtedly be tempered by the successful demonstration they have made in their present work.

PRAISE LEADERS

"Throughout this program we felt that the employment of Negro workers should be a matter handled on a local basis, so as to prevent the unnecessary migration and displacement of workers from other areas, and further complicate our local housing and transportation problems which are now at a very critical point in San Diego.

AUG 23 1941

"All of our contacts with Negroes have been made through organizations representing their race to which Mr. C. D. Jolley, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Coolred People; and Mr. Dennis V. Allen, chairman of the Race Relations Committee have been unselfishly giving their time and efforts. They undoubtedly will be very happy to give you additional details relating to our program for the employment of Negro workers."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Break Jim-Crow Ban At New Haven Plant; To Hire 50 Negroes

MAY 10 1941

Pratt-Whitney Aircraft Factory Promises to Give Jobs; 3-Month Drive Rallies United Labor, Church, Civic Groups in Fight

Conn

(Special to the Daily Worker)

NEW HAVEN, May 9.—A three-month campaign against job jim-crow in national defense industries here was climaxed this week when the "lily-white" Pratt-Whitney Aircraft Co. agreed to hire 50 Negro workers.

The campaign for the jobs was waged by a united group of Negro and white organizations and reached a high point at the recent Connecticut Conference of Youth in Hartford. Ten have already gone to work and the others will be placed shortly.

MAY 10 1941

Spokesmen for the organizations in the campaign stressed that this victory would spur the drive still further. They pointed out that Pratt-Whitney, which is a division of United Aircraft Co., has placed all the 50 workers in their cafeteria and not in the plant. The company was forced to relinquish its ironclad Jim-Crow policy after a number of conferences between the Youth Conference, the Hartford Youth Council and the Independent Negro Youth Club of Hartford with the firm's personnel department.

The campaign won wide support throughout the area from church, labor, civic, educational and settlement organizations. The campaign will now endeavor to place Negroes in basic industrial plants.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

102-Year-Old Firm Ends Job Discrimination

MAY 31 1941

HARTFORD, Conn. — For the first time in its 102-year history, the Cheney Brothers' Company, silk manufacturers of Manchester, abandoned its lily-white employment policy, following a conference of manufacturers here this week with Lawrence A. Oxley, chief of the race relations unit of the Social Security Board. of the Social Security Board.

Another result of the conference was the call by the Pratt and Whitney Corporation, a subsidiary of the United Aircraft Corporation to the Connecticut State Employment Service for an initial group of twenty semi-skilled colored workers for its plant here.

3-Million Defense Contract

The Cheney company has a 3-million defense contract for the production of parachute silk. J. W. Nickerson, general superintendent, told the conference that the first group of colored workers were being employed this week in the silk inspection and processing departments.

More than 2000 Connecticut manufacturers were represented at the meeting, many of whose personnel officers and employment managers also expressed some inclination to lower their barriers against colored skilled workers.

MAY 31 1941

During the coming week, Mr. Oxley is scheduled to hold further conferences with representatives of the Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Corporation with reference to opening skilled and semi-skilled opportunities to colored in its Columbus and St. Louis plants.

35c-1941

D. C.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

DISCRIMINATION IN CENSUS BUREAU DENIED BY OFFICIAL

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—Categorically denying every charge of racial discrimination in the bureau of the census, Dr. Vergil D. Reed assistant director, in an open letter to Hugh Miller, chairman of the Washington committee for Democratic Action answered the allegations and called upon Mr. Miller to admit the charges groundless.

"Personally," Dr. Reed told the representative of the Associated Negro Press, "I feel that this agitation, which has been going on for some time is nothing more than an effort to increase the membership of the C. I. O. union in the census bureau, and I am happy to say that few of our colored workers have responded to the urge."

Quotes Percentage

In his letter, Dr. Reed pointed out that the percentage of the Negroes in the total populaion in the United States was 9.7 per cent. On the basis of preliminary 1940 census data available, it is clear that the percentage did not change in 1940. The percentage of Negroes employed in the census bureau is 9.83 per cent or over the ratio to the total population.

Quite a furore had been raised in local circles, with a delegation of ministers calling on Dr. Reed to protest what they alleged had been indiscriminate firings as charged by the action group. Dr. Reed gave this group the figures on the dismissals and explained to them at great length that there had been no indiscriminate firings.

Factors Guide

"Three main factors have governed the work assignments of all employes in the census bureau—both Negroes and whites; (1) the character of the job for which the person was qualified on the civil service registers; (2) the date of certification by the civil service commission, and (3) the status of the work in the various divisions," he said.

FEB 7 1941

"You mentioned this morning that unduly large proportions of Negroes were employed as card-punch operators. This is entirely attributable to the fact that punch card operators certified o the bureau for this type of work were, to a large extent, Negroes.

These people must be taken from civil service registers, and the type of examination they have taken largely determines the jobs on which they can be placed. There are certain types of examinations which evidently Negro aspirants do not take in any considerable numbers. It is true that the beginning salary of a card puncher is $1,260 per annum, below the $1,440 rate paid for clerical work.

"This starting salary, however, is fixed by the civil service commission and not by the census bureau. That we have definitely attempted to improve the salary rates of all card punchers, including Negroes, is attested to by the fact that we have made arrangements, with the approval of the civil service commission to pay card punch operators up to $1,260 per annum in accordance with the efficiency of the employe."

Discussing the segregation of Negroes, Dr. Reed said that after discussing the problem with work-

---

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

DISCRIMINATION IS RAMPANT IN CENSUS BUREAU OF U. S. GOVT.

Dismissals of Negroes Being Made Policy of Present Regime Says Report

Globe
JAN 31 1941
Nashville Tenn

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (ANP)—Discrimination against Negro employes is rampant in the census bureau, according to information submitted by the United Federal workers in an appeal to the public to have certain practises in the bureau halted.

"The bureau of census is making discriminatory dismissals against its Negro employes," says the bulletin. "Of the first group of 600 dismissals, about one third are Negroes, whereas. Negroes comprise only 10 per cent of the employes in the bureau. In another division, Negroes have already been completely eliminated This situation has resulted from the deliberate policy of the administration of the census bureau restricting Negroes to types of work that are most poorly paid and that make them subject to the earliest dismissals. Unless changed, this policy will result in Negro employes being completely eliminated from all positions except card punch and messenger work by the end of March.

"In spite of the urgency of this situation, Dr. Virgil D. Reed, acting director of the census, has refused to meet with a committee representing the employes affected.

"Local 23 is calling on the secretary of commerce to change the policy at census and is appealing to organizations interested in the democratic treatment of Negroes to protest the existing situation to the secretary of commerce."

In a circular submitted at the same time, the United Federal workers state that there are now 800 Negroes employed in the census out of a total of 8,000 employes. In the agriculture division, all Negroes except messengers were eliminated at the time when the routine clerical work was completed. In the machine tabulation division, Negroes are restricted to jobs as operators of card-punch machines, paying $1260 per annum with slight increases for extraordinary quantities of work done. Qualified Negroes are barred from jobs as operators of tabulating, sorting and gang punch machines which pay from $1500 to $1620 per year.

35c

DC

JAN 31 1941

In the population division, Negroes are restricted to those early operations (coding) from which a major part of dismissals are being made. Six hundred were fired as of Jan. 15 and 31 which about 200 are Negroes. All operations in which Negroes are at present are due to end during the month of March.

DISCRIMINATION IS RAMPANT IN CENSUS BUREAU OF U. S. GOVT.

MODERN FARMER

Dismissals of Negroes Being Made Policy of Present Regime, Says Report.

FEB 15 1941

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (ANP)—Discrimination against Negro employes is rampant in the census bureau, according to information submitted by the United Federal workers in an appeal to the public to have certain practises in the bureau halted.

"The bureau of census is making discriminatory dismissals against its Negro employes," says the bulletin. "Of the first group of 600 dismissals, about one third are Negroes, whereas. Negroes comprise only 10 per cent of the employes in the bureau. In another division, Negroes have already been completely eliminated. This situation has resulted from the deliberate policy of the administration of the census bureau restricting Negroes to types of work that are most poorly paid and that make them subject to the earliest dismissals. Unless changed, this policy will result in Negro employes being completely eliminated from all positions except card punch and messenger work by the end of March.

"In spite of the urgency of this situation, Dr. Virgil D. Reed, acting director of the census, has refused to meet with a committee representing the employes affected.

"Local 23 is calling on the secretary of commerce to change the policy at census and is appealing to organizations interested in the democratic treatment of Negroes to protest the existing situation to the secretary of commerce."

In a circular submitted at the same time, the United Federal workers state that there are now 800 Negroes employed in the census out of a total of 8,000 employes. In the agriculture division, all Negroes except messengers were eliminated at the time when the routine clerical work was completed. In the machine tabulation division, Negroes are restricted to jobs as operators of card-punch machines, paying $1260 per annum with slight increases for extraordinary quantities of work done. Qualified Negroes are barred from jobs as operators of tabulating, sorting and gang punch machines which pay from $1500 to $1620 per year.

FEB 15 1941

In the population division, Negroes are restricted to those early operations (coding) from which a major part of dismissals are being made. Six hundred were fired as of Jan. 15 and 31 which about 200 are Negroes. All operations in which Negroes are at present are due to end during the month of March.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Only 15 Per Cent In White Trade As Negro Alliance Fails To Meet Agreement

APR 17 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Coupled with joyous Easter messages which resounded through the various churches on Sunday was the stark announcement from innumerable pulpits that the Safeway (Sanitary) Grocery Company flatly refused to hire colored clerks in its new store at Fourteenth and U streets, Northwest, where only 15 per cent of the trade is white, and that pickets shuffled endlessly in front of the establishment.

A continual stream of pickets was hurled before the store when it opened for business on Friday after a delegation representing about twenty organizations, led by the New Negro Alliance, futilely attempted to have R. W. Finlay, vice-president of the company, reconsider its policy of not hiring colored persons in stores where the principal buying is by members of the race.

APR 17 1941

Warns of Losses

Although in the outset, the delegation handled Mr. Finlay with "kid gloves," it later, in the face of his continued adamant refusal to yield to a request for colored clerks, warned him of the possible losses through a boycott.

APR 17 1941

It is an interesting and pertinent fact that five years ago the New Negro Alliance requested the then Sanitary Company to hire Negroes in clerical jobs, especially in stores where most of the trade is colored.

The company refused and a picket line in front of its store at Eleventh and U streets, Northwest, was used as a basis for a favorable U. S. Supreme Court decision upholding the legality of picketing for jobs. The store was later closed under the pressure of a silent boycott.

At the conference last week prior to the opening of the store, Eugene Davidson, administrator of the Alliance, presented Mr. Finlay with petitions containing 6,000 names of persons who supported the request for colored clerks in the new establishment.

APR 17 1941

Three Requests Made

The delegation, for which Mr. Davidson served as the opening speaker made three requests of the Safeway Company:

That you declare your employment policy to be one which will admit Negroes to clerical jobs in your stores;

That as vacancies occur in your personnel you replace those clerks with Negroes, especially in stores in colored neighborhoods until a fair proportion of Negroes is so employed;

APR 17 1941

That you give immediate evidence of such a policy by opening your new store with a percentage of colored clerks satisfactory to your consumers as represented by the New Negro Alliance and allied organizations.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

PICKETS MARCH WHEN FIRM WON'T EMPLOY CLERKS

Grocer Chain Heads Tell Delegation, "Policy Unchanged"

APR 19 1941

After officials of a local grocer chain announced to a Negro delegation that no colored clerks would be hired in its new store at Fourteenth and U Streets, Northwest, pickets have been marching in front of the establishment since it opened for business, last Friday.

APR 19 1941

This drastic action was taken after a delegation, representing about twenty organizations led by the New Negro Alliance, futilely attempted to have R. W. Finlay, vice-president of the company, reconsider its policy of not hiring colored clerks in stores even when those stores are located in areas populated heavily by Negroes.

Although in the outset, the delegation handled Mr. Finlay with "kid gloves," it later, in the face of his continued adamant refusal to yield to a request for colored clerks, warned him of the possible losses through a boycott.

Clashed 5 Years Ago

It is an interesting and pertinent fact that five years ago the New Negro Alliance requested the Company to employ Negroes in clerical jobs, especially in stores where most of the trade is colored.

The company refused and a picket line in front of its store at Eleventh and U Streets, Northwest, was used as a basis for a favorable U. S. Supreme Court decision upholding the legality of picketing for jobs. The store was later closed under the pressure of a silent boycott.

APR 19 1941

Held Line 16 Months

It is also interesting to note here that the Alliance made a similar request of a local drugstore chain, and when turned down established a picket line before the store at Fourteenth and U Streets for sixteen consecutive months.

Although the drug chain did not yield, the Alliance felt that its objective had been accomplished after the particular store's business was reduced to practically nothing and job opportunities among independent store proprietors in the neighborhood were created for more than 250 persons.

At the conference last week prior to the opening of the store, Eugene Davidson, administrator of the Alliance, presented Mr. Finlay with petitions containing 6,000 names of persons who supported the request for colored clerks in the new establishment.

3 Requests Made

The delegation, for which Mr. Davidson served as the opening speaker, made three requests of the grocery company:

That you declare your employment policy to be one which will admit Negroes to clerical jobs in your stores;

That as vacancies occur in your personnel you replace those clerks with Negroes, especially in stores in colored neighborhoods until a fair proportion of Negroes are so employed by you;

APR 19 1941

That you give immediate evidence of such a policy by opening your new store with a percentage of colored clerks satisfactory to your consumers as represented by the New Negro Alliance and allied organizations.

Among those who bombarded Mr. Finlay with various questions in an attempt to find out if there were any other reason colored clerks are not hired simply because of their race were:

The Rev. R. W. Brooks, president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Prof. W. A. Hunton, Howard University professor and representative of the National Negro Congress; Prof. Robert Ming, Jr., Howard University professor of law and member of the NAACP legal staff, and George W. Goodman, executive secretary of the Washington Urban League.

Jack Mink, white president of the Cafeteria Workers' Union, warned Mr. Finlay that should the extreme measure of picketing be necessary his organization would give full support and furnish pickets.

Discourtesy Reported

Mrs. Gertrude Stone, vice-president of the NAACP, told him of an experience by a prospective customer, James E. Poindexter, of 1015 O Street, Northwest, at the store on N Street, Northwest, between Eleventh and Twelfth.

When Mr. Poindexter complained to the white meat dealer after being forced to wait until a long line of white shoppers who entered the store after him were served, he was told that he was "lucky to be waited on at all." Mrs. Stone contended that such discourtesy would not exist had there been a bi-racial policy. Mr. Finlay "regretted" the incident.

Pastoral Aid Promised

The Rev. Mr. Brooks warned the company official that he would importune the fifty ministers belonging to the denomination to broadcast anew from the pulpit the firm's continued policy.

Messrs. Ming, Goodman, and Hunton all sought to have Mr. inlay view the matter from a rictly business point. Whenever rnered, Mr. Finlay simply reiterted: "We have given careful conderation to your request and at is time we cannot accede to it."

Any reason for refusal aside om that of race would "expose e internal policy," Mr. Finlay timated.

APR 19 1941

Other Representatives

Among other organizations repsented at the conference were: lpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Combia Elks' Lodge, Howard Law hool students, Pleasant Plains ivic Association, Monroe School -T.A. Bi-racial Committee, Washgton Civil Rights Committee, on-partisan Council, Columbia ks' Temple, National Capitol ks' Temple, Civil Liberties nion, and Social Action Commit-

The committee of the Alliance recting the picketing activities cludes: Rolandus H. Cooper airman; George H. Rycraw, Les S. Perry, Kirk Jackson, and A. Cornish.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Linotypist Claims Discrimination in U. S. Printing Office

SEP 12 1941

350

John Clark Says His Experience And Qualifications Entitle Him to a Better Rating; Fights for $2,600 Job

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(ANP).—Letters of protest received this week by prominent legislators in Washington reveal the newest instance of racial discrimination in the defense effort, the incident involving a Negro linotype operator and the government printing office in Washington, which issued a nation-wide call for operators early this year, to help in preparing the immense flood of printed material required in furthering the defense work.

According to the letters sent out, the linotype operator, John Louis Clark, applied for a position in the GPO following issuances of the announcement of vacancies. There was no written, manual or oral examination, qualification being made through experience only. Clark received the low rating of 78.75 and has not been called for work.

SEP

The protest being made by Clarke is based on his belief that his qualifications entitle him to a higher rating. His experience is given as including:

Completion of a four-year course in a printing school conducted by the State of Ohio, above high-school grade; a bachelor of science degree from Wilberforce university; two years' employment as a linotype operator by the State of Ohio; 20 years' experience as an operator in first-class shops in Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Chicago and New York City; while employed on the Chicago Defender, he was clocked as coming within two minutes of the world's record for speed operating.

Clarke's protest raises the point, "Despite these facts, I was given the rating from Washington of 78.75, which causes me to wonder just what qualifications those given higher ratings could have."

Similar complaints of racial discrimination in government employment have arisen from various parts of the country although prominent government heads from time to time issue blasts against discrimination in private industry. The job for which Clarke is fighting pays $2,600 a year, under federal civil service.

35c-1941 D.C.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Commission Already Agreed On Man For Job, Brown Says

APR 30 1941

De

Move Seen as Effort to Halt Discrimination Against Colored Clerical Eligibles

35c

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—According to Edgar Brown, the United States Civil Service commission has agreed to appoint a Negro in an executive capacity for that organization. Mr. Brown stated that he had been informed as to the person agreed upon, but refused to name him pending an announcement from the White House.

This announcement followed the visiting by a committee headed by Mr. Brown, to the White House and to the civil service commission where they were promised early action to stop recently reported cases of discrimination against Negro clerical eligibles for positions in the federal service.

APR 30 1941

The necessity of protecting several thousand Negroes now employed as emergency workers by NYA, CCC, and other agencies brought under civil service by the President's signing of the Ramspeck bill was also emphasized by members of the committee as imperative.

"The commission not only promised immediate action to enforce the provisions of the law against discrimination, but advised the delegation that the commission in cooperation with the liasion officer of the White House in charge of personnel management would shortly appoint a Negro in a high administrative position at the civil service commission, whose specific assignment would be to report and investigate cases of discrimination and to protect all federal government workers in the service, and eligibles for civil service positions regardless of race, color, politics or religion in their constitutional rights."

APR 30 1941

However, it is reported from other sources that the President's secretary made such a suggestion four months ago, with the offering of the position to another individual, now already well placed. He refused the job on the grounds that he was "doing all right where he now is located."

Other groups had gone on record as opposing this move saying it was not to the best advantage of Negroes in the service to have them so shunted off to another individual of their own race, whose hands might or might not be tied to prevent an effective job being done.

APR 30 1941

This statement was made during a previous hearing on the McAlpin case, it is reported, when a member of the commission, very much pleased, it is said, suggested the appointment or said that the commission was considering such an appointment. It met with a cool reception at the time.

Proposed Abolishment Of Segregation Arouses South

INDIGNANT OVER PLAN TO STOP

DISCRIMINATION IN GOVERNMENT OFFICE

JUN 5 1941

35-c

Savannah Tribune

Washington, D. C.—Waves of righteousness Southern finding natoin continue to beat about the heads of those who favor the adoption of the Martin F. Carpenter plan to abolish segregation in the United States Employment Service.

Latest and most significant development is the tacit approval of Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board of the continuance of segregation.

Altmeyer was asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to explain the item in the Dailyl Press Digest, organ for the Social Security Board, giving publicity to a reported statement by him that he was not in favor of integrating Negroes into the USES in the manner proposed by the Carpenter reorganization plan.

Altmeyers reply, while avoiding a direct answer to the question, showed a distinct bias in favor of continued segregation, which, in view of his position as chairman of the SSB, is a definite and disheartening indication of the power of the Negro-hating South in government offices.

His attitude is revealed by section of his letter which says:

"I stated (before the subcommittee on the House Committee on Appropriations) that the reorganization would not change the present ' arrangement so far as race is concerned in other words that white persons would continue tobe interviewed by white persons and that white employees would continue to be supervised by white persons.

"I also stated that as regards waiting room facilities this would be worked out in a satifactory ' manner."

The reorganization plan as orginally drafted would have set up the staff on the basis of qualification and ability, and where Negroes were qualified to fill supervisory positions they would do so. Also there was to be no 'distinction as to interviewers on the basis of race.

The first bombshell exploded when a pamphlet anonymously written, was circulated in government offices urging opposition to this plan in which the race issue is only incidental.

Because the race issue has been paramount by certain interested persons, it was feared that appropriations for the Bureau of Employment Security, employment, Employment Service division might be slashed.

The Carpenter anti -segregation plan was aimed at increasing the efficiency of government employment offices throughout the country.

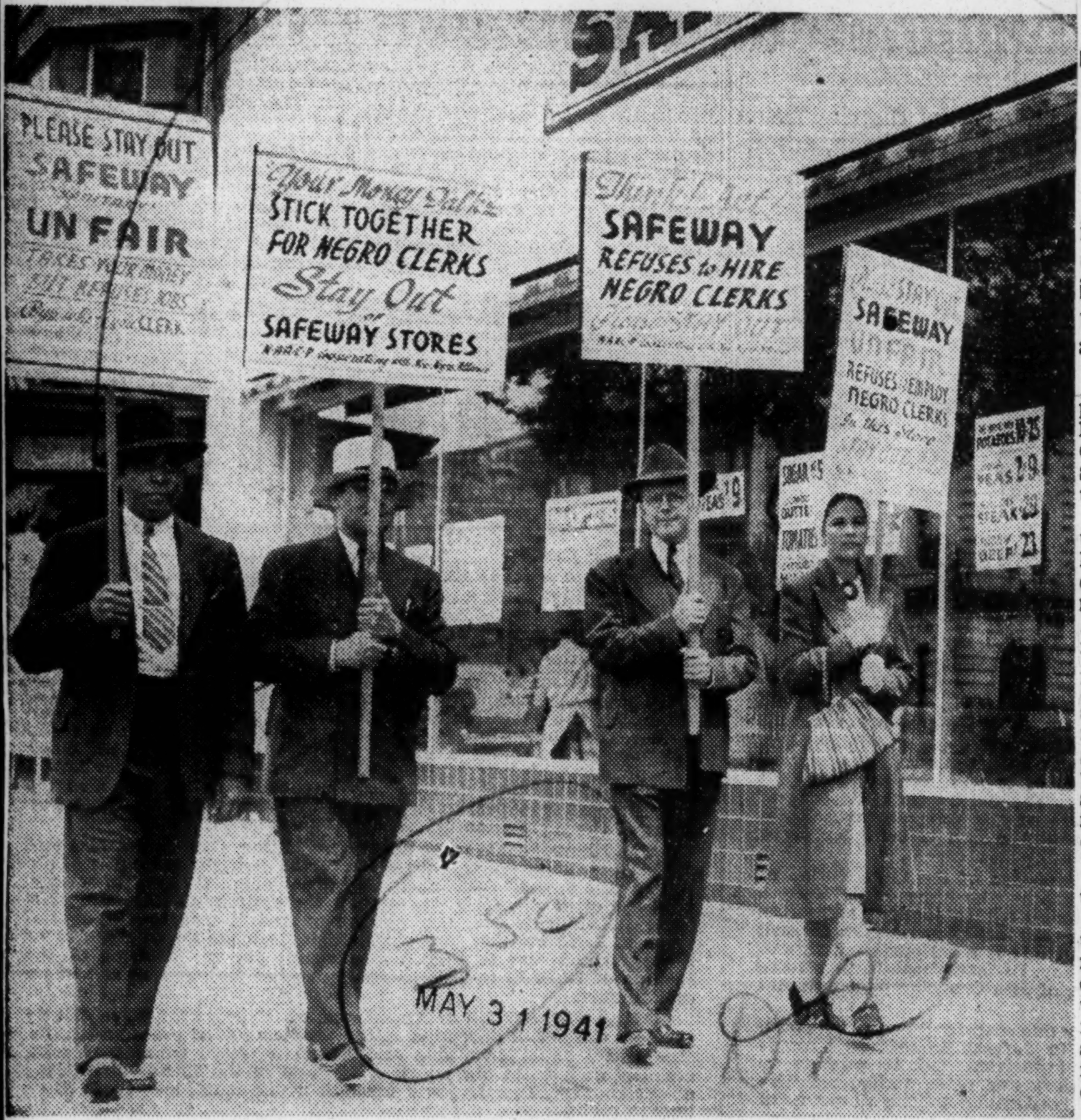
Savannah Ga.

JUN 5 1941

JUN 5 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FIGHTING FOR JOBS IN NATION'S CAPITAL


PLEASE STAY OUT
SAFEWAY
UNFAIR
Your Money Talks
STICK TOGETHER FOR NEGRO CLERKS
Stay Out
SAFEWAY STORES
SAFEWAY
REFUSES to HIRE NEGRO CLERKS
SAFEWAY
UNFAIR
REFUSES to EMPLOY NEGRO CLERKS

MAY 31 1941

Pickets appearing in front of the Safeway Store at Fourteenth and U streets in Washington, D.C., protesting against the company which arbitrarily refused to hire Negro clerks although nearly 90 per cent of the trade comes from Negroes. Left to right are: Rolanders Cooper, Eugene Davidson, administrator of the New Negro Alliance; Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., and Mrs. Phoebe Howard.

MAY 31 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Letter Is Sent To State Heads

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—"It is imperative that in the selection and referral of workers for training and employment under this program the Work Projects Administration maintain its established policy of non-discrimination against workers because of race, creed, color or national origin."

This is one of the important points in recent instructions in a letter from Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner of Work Projects, to State WPA Administrators throughout the country.

Mr. Hunter also called attention to Section 24 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942, which makes discrimination against workers unlawful and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

The Commissioner ordered that his warning of discrimination against WPA workers because of race, creed, color, or national origin be promptly brought to the attention of all administrative and supervisory employees of the WPA in every state.

TEXT OF LETTER

Full text of Mr. Hunter's letter to State Administrators follows:

"An Executive Order issued by the President on June 25, 1941 directs all departments and agencies of the Government concerned with vocational and training programs for the defense production to institute safeguards against discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin.

"In this connection, it is imperative that in the selection and referral of workers for training and employment under this program the Work Projects Administration maintain its established policy of non-discrimination against workers because of race, creed, color or national origin.

"This will also serve to emphasize Section 24, of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year wherein discrimination against workers is designated as unlawful and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

MUST TELL SUPERVISORS

"The intent of this Commissioner's Letter shall be immediately brought to the attention of all administrative and supervisory employees of the Work Projects Administration in your State."

According to Alfred Edgar Smith, Staff Adviser, Federal WPA, safeguards against discrimination which would operate to the disadvantage of WPA workers because of race, creed, color, or national origin have been in effect since February 1934. At that time Forrester B. Washington, present Director of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, was Director of Negro Work in the Old Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and Mr. Smith was Mr. Washington's assistant.

The current non-discrimination letter issued by Commissioner Hunter follows the appropriation by Congress of $875,000,000 to WPA for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942. Section 24 of this Act mentioned in Mr. Hunter's letter, says in part:

"......Except as may be authorized or required by law, it shall be unlawful for any person to deprive, attempt to deprive, or threaten to deprive, by any means, any person of any employment, position, work, compensation, or other benefit, provided for or made possible by this joint resolution, on account of race, creed, color or any political activity.

"Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of felony, and upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both......"

Section 22 of the same Congressional Act imposes a $2,000 fine or imprisonment of not more than two years, or both, for "Any person who ....knowingly, by means of any fraud, force, threat, intimidation, or boycott, or discrimination on account of race, religion, political affiliations, or membership or non-membership in a labor organization, deprives any person of any of the benefits to which he may be entitled under any such appropriations."

AUG 23 1941

35c-1941

D.C.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WAR DEPARTMENT STILL SEGREGATES RACE GIRLS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—(ANP)—Hidden away on the second floor in the sixth wing of the huge munitions building of the war department is a little coterie of five colored stenographers—part of the famous "pool" of colored girls hired.

According to information, a pool is merely a receiving section, where girls await calls to other appointments in the department. They work there until a vacancy occurs and then they are assigned offices needing their services.

The usual length of service in pool is from four to five weeks, but these girls have spent as many months in this private pool with no changes.

Each of the young women has her name on her desk, printed in huge letters on a card, and each one has a typewriter.

WHITE GIRLS WARNED

The majority of their work consists in making stencils and one young woman is reported to have typed one manuscript 36 times—just a repetition of what she has done before.

White girls who wish to be friendly with them are warned not to speak to the colored girls and leave them severely alone. One girl from Pennsylvania, who was not accustomed to such treatment, bucked the line and was immediately transferred to a point where she would not come in contact with the colored workers.

None of the girls will permit her name to be used to protest against such treatment, and it is said that the condition confronting them is well-known to officials of the war department who, it is believed, could do something to remedy the situation.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Machinists Bar Negro Workers

SEATTLE, Wash. —(SNS)—Sentiment here is that colored workers who want jobs in the Boeing aircraft company, makers of bombers and holders of huge government contracts are "up against a stone wall."

Boeing has a contract with the Aeronautical Mechanics Union, Local 751, International Association of Machinists, and Boeing says the union admits only members of the Caucasian race to its rolls.

This information was contained in a letter to Jack Steinberg, N. A. A. C. P. counsel in Seattle, who requested Boeing's personnel manager, Paul Frederickson, to state Boeing policy with respect to the employment of Negroes.

Frederickson replied that the company's agreement with the Machinists union obliges it to employ only union members.

Boeing is on the list of companies sent by the NAACP to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices with the recommendation that they be investigated. The Association has received word from Lawrence W. Cramer, executive secretary of the FEPC, that this situation will be probed.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Machinists Union Open to Whites Only; NAACP

SEP 2 1941

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 18—Sentiment here is that colored workers who want jobs in the Boeing aircraft company, makers of bombers and holders of huge government contracts are "up against a stone wall."

Boeing has a contract with the Aeronautical Mechanics Union, Local 751, International Association of Machinists, and Boeing says the union only admits members of the Caucasian race to its rolls.

This information was contained in a letter to Jack Steinberg, N. A. C. P. counsel in Seattle, who requested Boeing's personnel manager, Paul Frederickson, to state Boeing policy with respect to the employment of Negroes.

Frederickson replied that the company's agreement with the Machinists' union obliges it to employ only union members.

Boeing is on the list of companies sent by the NAACP to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices with the recommendation that they be investigated. The association has received word from Lawrence W. Cramer, executive secretary of the FEPC, that this situation will be probed.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Census Bureau Denies Bias

OCT 1 1 1941

WASHINGTON

Charges that the census bureau division located in the Department of Commerce Building at Fourteenth Street and Constitution Avenue, Northwest, was discriminating against colored workers brought emphatic denials from bureau officials questioned by the AFRO this week.

After the reporter had been referred from the sectional supervisor to an administrator and then to the executive officer, it was learned that employees graded "poor," or "fair," whether colored or white, would be displaced to make room for workers marked "excellent," and "very good," from divisions that are being discontinued.

In answer to the charge that their inferior ratings would blacklist workers so marked from employment in other departments, Edward Gardner, white, executive officer in the census division, stated: "Of course their names will not go on the emergency replacement lists, for their ratings for that must be 'good' or better."

Most of the criticism was directed against Miss Ada Fisher, Howard University grad and supervisor, whose ratings were directly responsible for the dismissals.

OCT 1 1 1941

G. N. T. Gray, who probed the cases on behalf of the U.G.E. in which many of the employees held union membership, declared that Miss Fisher was apparently being used as a tool in the old game of ridding the department of colored workers who would in all probability be replaced with whites.

Miss Fisher, however, is reported to have contended that her markings were wholly on the basis of efficiency and that she was not motivated by racial bias either for or against those whose markings were low.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Will Push Point That Workers Are Available, Awaiting Call

NOV 1 1941

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30. (ANP)—Secretary Frances Perkins of the Department of Labor, in answer to a plea for jobs for Negro women in the bureau from the National Non-Partisan League of the AKA, shows either a disregard for their presentation or an ignorance of the subject, according to a letter received by the league discussing the matter.

Recently Miss Jeannetta Welch, Dr. Dorothy Ferebee and Miss Norma Boyd, representing the AKA Non-Partisan League, had an appointment made to talk with Madame Perkins.

As a result, a letter was sent following their talk with the secretary, pointing out there were two women qualified to hold down positions as junior investigators and two qualified as stenographers, all four of them being on the civil service list.

Madame Perkins had asked about these positions and expressed herself as being hopeful they could be placed.

But to the amazement of the non-partisan group, they received a letter from the secretary stating, "We have no vacancies in the woman's bureau at the present time. If we should by any chance receive additional money for defense work and if there should be a qualified Negro woman on the civil service lists, it is likely to be possible then to make such an appointment."

Miss Welch of the Non-Partisan League had already pointed out to Mrs. Perkins the fact that these four women were qualified under the civil service and already were on the list.

NOV 1

What adds to a situation which grows ridiculous is the fact that the bureau is advertising its needs along these lines and qualified Negro workers are being overlooked in the shuffle.

However, the Non-Partisan League is determined to push the cause and will again call Mrs. Perkins' attention to the fact that there are qualified workers available and awaiting call.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Would Close Bureau Jobs To Colored

Liberal Members Of Farm Group Oppose Plan

MAR 8 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. (ANP) —A bitter battle to the finish looms on the horizon with the uncovering of the plans recently submitted to Congress whereby the Department of Agriculture would be shorn of five of its most liberal bureaus and their work turned back to individual states.

Hundreds of Negroes now employed by these bureaus would be thrown out of work and the general progressive program of certain departments would be scrapped in their entirety, it is reported.

Backed by the strong conservative Farm Bureau Federation, the plan would remove from Washington the AAA, soil conservation service, surplus marketing division, and a part of the bureau of agricultural economics.

MOST LIBERAL

These divisions have been most liberal in their attitude toward colored workers as well as farmers with FSA having 46 Negro clerks, stenographers, messengers and administrative personnel in Washington and 150 field workers, all but 29 of whom are of the professional class, earning between $1600 and $3200 per annum.

All of these positions would be eliminated and the program as instituted for the benefit of the farmers farthest down checked, it is believed.

The fight grew out of the desire of the Farm Bureau Federation to gain control of the department of agriculture and to dictate its policies.

MAR 8 1941

FEW RACE MEMBERS

With a membership of many hundreds of farmers whose incomes are over the $500 annual standard set by the department as low-income farmers, few Negroes belong to the bureau. It is reported by an official in agriculture that to the best of his knowledge, only about 1 per cent of the total membership of the farm bureau is Negro. And in the South, where the bureau is strongest, Negro members are not permitted to attend meetings.

Opposing the actions of the farm bureau workers will be the Farmers Union, a growing organization which plans to combat any action the bureau takes.

Every liberal member of the department of agriculture is lined up against the plan which will effect migratory workers and sharecroppers particularly, and, inasmuch as the largest percentage of low income farmers are Negroes, they too will feel the full impact of the bureau plan.

STATE ADMINISTRATION

All the way down the line from the administrative officers to field workers, the federal part would be eliminated and states themselves would be called upon to administer the program.

Although the battle has been going on for some time, it has just come to light with the presentation by the Farm Bureau Federation to congress of its plans for the future of agriculture.

35c-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courie
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Personnel Group Demands Order To End Segregation

35c

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 4 —(ANP)— President Roosevelt has been asked by the Council of Personnel Administrators, as a result of their investigations and findings, to issue a letter to department heads demanding the cessation of discriminatory practices in civil service appointments.

For some time this group of administrators has met with a colored group including Dr. Robert Weaver, William A. Trent, Emmer Lancaster, Dr. Frank Horne and others attempting to work out some method whereby Negro workers would be absorbed in the Federal service.

SEP 6 1941

For three months they have met and exchanged ideas and findings, and subsequently submitted a report, the gist of which was that more Negro workers should be included in the Federal service, and the majority were for integration of these workers and not segregation. Sources close to the committee state that all of the colored advisers were for integration with one exception, and he thought segregated units would be better.

FEP IN SIMILAR MOVE

In the final report, it was recommended that a petition be presented the President asking that the letter be sent to department heads, making he departmental heads responsible for such action if there was any vestige of discrimination.

Following the action of the Council of Personnel Administrators, the Committee on Fair Practices took up much the same line of work in their meeting on Wednesday of last week and it is believed that Mart Etheridge, chairman of the committee, advanced this idea when he visited the President on Wednesday morning, prior to the meeting of his committee.

SEP 6 1941

It had been reported that Mr. Etheridge had asked the President to issue an executive order covering the civil service along the same lines as he did for private industry, but the Fair Practice Committee long ago ruled they had no jurisdiction over such cases.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C

'All Loyal and Qualified'

35c

Roosevelt Orders Inquiry Into Racial Discrimination

By the United Press

Hyde Park, N. Y., Sept. 6.—President Roosevelt tonight called on all Government departments and agencies to take immediate steps toward eliminating racial discrimination, particularly against Negros, in the Federal Civil Service.

SEP 7 1941

Mr. Roosevelt sent a letter to Mark Ethridge, chairman of the Fair Employment Practice Committee established in the Office of Production Management to investigate complaints of racial discrimination in the defense industries or Government.

The President arrived here this morning for a weekend of rest, but particularly to greet his mother, Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, who returned from a vacation at Campobello, N. B.

In a letter to the heads of all departments and independent establishments, apparently designed to supplement an Executive Order issued by the President on June 25, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"It has come to my attention that there is in the Federal establishment a lack of uniformity and possibly some lack of sympathetic attitude toward the problems of minority groups, particularly those relating to the employment and assignment of Negroes in the Federal Civil Service.

"With a view to improving the situation, it is my desire that all departments and independent establishments in the Federal Government make a thorough examination of their personnel policies and practices to the end that they may be able to assure me that in the Federal service the doors of employment are open to all loyal and qualified workers regardless of creed, race or national origin.

"It is imperative that we deal with this problem speedily and effectively. I shall look for immediate steps to be taken by all departments and independent establishments of the Government to facilitate and put into effect this policy of nondiscrimination in Federal employment."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Union Warned By FEP Unit

NOV 14 1941

35c

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—E. C. Davison, general secretary and treasurer of the International Association of Machinists, A. F of L., Thursday spent two hours before the President's committee on Fair Employment Practice, answering questions concerning complaints that Negroes and other minority groups are denied the opportunity to work in defense industries because the IAM refused membership to any workers who are not of the white race.

Davison whose headquarters are in Washington, represented Harvey W. Brown, international president of the IAM, who was prevented by illness from appearing before the committee which was established by executive order to receive complaints of discrimination in defense industries due to race, creed, color, or national origin.

REVIEW COMPLAINTS

NOV 14 1941

Complaints against the union were brought before the committee, of which Mark Ethridge, Louisville publisher, is chairman, at public hearings held recently in Los Angeles and though investigations in Seattle.

Davison denied that there is anything in either the constitution or ritual of the IAM which prevents employers from hiring whomsoever they desire, although he also said that "even the executive council of the IAM cannot tell a local what members it shall accept."

Because Davison said he could not bind the executive council of the IAM, the fair employment practice committee decided to request the executive council of the IAM to take cognizance of alleged cases of discrimination in the Seattle and Los Angeles areas, and to make a declaration of policy to all affiliated locals to bring them in line with the national policy as set forth in the President's executive order of June 25.

RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS

NOV 14 1941

The committee heard communications from a number of companies, some of which figured in the Los Angeles hearings, which indicate that they are changing employment policies in accordance with the excutive order which reaffirms Federal policy that there shall be "full participation in the defense program by all persons regardless of race, creed, color or national origin."

The call to the IAM was made both directly to E. C. Davison its general secretary and treasurer, and by letter to the executive council of the union, following an all-day meeting of the Fair Employment Practice Committee in Washington.

Mr. Davison, whose offices are in Washington, represented Harvey W. Brown, international president of the IAM, who was prevented by illness from appearing personally before the committee.

The principal complaints and charges against the committee came from Los Angeles and Seattle, in both of which cities minority group workers contend they were kept from jobs in aircraft industries because of the union, even when the employer was willing to hire them.

ASK COMPLIANCE

It is expected that the executive council will take up the presentations of the Fair Employment Practice Committee at its next regular meeting in mid-December. In the meantime, however, the committee has called upon Mr. Brown and Mr. Davison, to use their present offices and powers in the Machinists Union to see that locals live up to the Executive Order.

The committee also announced that the transcrip of the Los Angeles hearings—a total of 658 typewritten pages—is being studied and that findings will be made public when such study is completed.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Finds Negro Firemen Losing Out On Southern Railroads

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(ANP)— Slowly but surely, Negroes are losing out on southern railroads, where for years they have earned a livelihood as firemen on the locomotives hauling trains over the vast network of tracks that cover this huge section of our country.

Several things have brought about this change, says A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in an exclusive interview Friday.

Among them are the important factors that first, the pay on these jobs has been efficient to warrant the attention of white men who are being gradually worked into the spots so long held by Negroes, second the introduction of Diesel engine—giving the railroads an opportunity to declare they do not want men as firemen who cannot qualify eventually as engineers. third, the failure of Negro workers themselves to organize.

Higher Rate Of Pay Attracting White Competition

These three factors are coming to rob the Negro of the most lucrative jobs in railroading he has ever held, since these jobs are high paying and under strict supervision.

Before the war, fireman's job was looked down on because, as Mr. Randolph pointed out, it was a hard job and paid only a dollar a day. Since that time with the introduction of wages and hours rulings, the pay increased to a point where many of these men earn from $200 to $300 monthly.

It is not surprising, then, he pointed out, that the whites avidly eyed the jobs held by Negroes on every railroad in the south.

On a trip through Savannah, Atlanta, Birmingham, and other important railroad centers, Mr. Randolph hopes to effectively assist these men through organizing them into a strong union, prior to attending the national convention of AF of L in Seattle.

SEP 18 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Job Bias Probers

WHAT METHODS BEING FOLLOWED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES, PUBLIC ASK

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

THE other morning a man came into my office and stated: "My name is John Smith, I am a semi-skilled worker. I have been discriminated against in the defense industries. What can I do about it?" In trying to advise this fellow I started talking about the Bureau of Employment Security, Dr. Weaver's office in OPM and the Fair Employment Practices Committee. After talking for a while I realized that I didn't know what the situation really was and I suspect that the majority of the public doesn't know either — further (and please do not repeat this to a soul) I suspect that neither does the Bureau of Employment Security, Dr. Weaver's office in OPM or the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

Mr. Cayton

Of course, I'm not on the inside but I have been hearing rumblings about how these three agencies were going to operate. At first, I heard that the cases for the committee were to be referred to them from the various state employment service offices. Later I heard that an attempt was made to set up regional offices of the committee and that it would carry on its own investigation. But this plan didn't sit so well with the boys in OPM who thought that they had already established a skeleton organization and a new one would be a duplication, as well as a method of handing out political plums for faithful black Democrats.

HOW ARE CASES TO BE HANDLED?

I hope the bright young people in Washington will pardon my ignorance but I would like to know just how they intend to handle the complaints which are, theoretically, pouring in from all over the country. Are they being referred from OPM and the Bureau of Employment Security or has the Commission set up a staff of its own? If the Commission has set up a staff of its own I would be interested in knowing how large a personnel it has; whether it has regional offices; how the average working man can contact them without hiring a lawyer?

WHILE most of our papers greet every move made by the Committee as a triumph of the race, I must say that I find the situation quite a jumble. For example, I understand that the committee is now on the West Coast holding open hearings. I had a little experience with the open hearings of the House of Representatives Committee on Inter-state Migration of Destitute Citizens. This committee was a model of organization. Two months before the Chicago hearing was scheduled a field representative was established in each district who spent a couple of weeks seeking out experts and what they call "victim-witnesses." Each expert submitted a written paper two weeks before the hearing was called and from it a series of additional questions were prepared to bring out some of the more subtle points.

SITUATION UNFAVORABLE FOR PUBLICITY

The testimony of the victim-witnesses was gone over, not to in any way prejudice them, but to bring out more sharply their material. At the time of the hearing, summaries of the testimony of the experts was given to the press and the witnesses were beautifully timed to meet the deadlines of the afternoon and evening papers. Finally the testimony of all of the witnesses was incorporated in a printed report.

Now as I said before, I don't know what the Commission has in the way of a staff (it takes experts to put on a show such as the one I've described). I don't know in what cities they intend to hold hearings. I do know that in an important city like Chicago no preliminary work has been done to insure a good hearing. Perhaps they haven't had time—but if they haven't had time then they shouldn't attempt to hold open hearings. I hope I'm wrong but to me the situation looks not so hot for digging out material and using the hearings as a sounding board to publicize the problem of Negro discrimination in industry, which is, after all, the only reason for holding them.

BUT to get back to my Mr. Smith, I hope someone will clear up the relationship between these three agencies so that the general public will know if they are working together, independently or against each other. And when it is established, could the three agencies or anyone or any combination of the three let the general public, Mr. John Smith, know what to do when he has a complaint, who to give it to and where. I would like to know these things but Mr. Smith would like to know if all of it is going to get him a job.

SEP 27 1941

35c-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COLOR DISCRIMINATION NO ACCIDENT

It is significant that all these are white people and that rigid bars keep Negroes out of the picture entirely, with a few unimportant exceptions that merely emphasize the rule.

To admit Negroes to the inner sanctum of our machine technology, to permit them to acquire the secrets of our technical civilization, to allow them to rise to positions of importance, influence and affluance in our industrial heirarchy would destroy the color caste system and the ideology of a superior white race which is the prime motivating force in this society.

This is why discrimination against Negroes in the technical phases of defense industry, in the more technical divisions of national defense and in the skilled unions is no accident, but rather a manifestation of that national understanding about the Negro's "place" which has been increasing among the overwhelming majority of prominent white people since the Civil War.

Thus, there is something almost pathetic in appeals of Negroes and white friends to "fair play," "democracy" and "the American way" in an effort to break down the barriers. If American industrialists, bankers, merchants and craft unionists had been susceptible to such appeals in the past we would have no problem today.

Even the President, with admittedly more power than any ruler on earth, has considered this subject "too hot to handle" even in the various government departments which he controls, and has never made any statement, pro or con, on it in any of his numerous addresses since the New Deal began.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

RACE LEADERS OVER THE NATION ASK ROOSEVELT AID IN JOB FIGHT; NEGROES DENIED BUT NAZIS WORK

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Negroes of America, after fruitless efforts to get industries, the National Defense Commission and "Jim Crow" labor unions to allow qualified Negroes the same opportunity to work in defense industries as all other races, have now petitioned President Franklin D. Roosevelt to intercede to see that Negro citizens are given equal opportunities. They asked the President to provide jobs for Negroes and opportunities for training of Negro youths on a fair basis in proportion to population. "This is fair and just," the petition said.

The petition, signed by various civic, labor, business and church organizations in part as follows:

"As persons who are sympathetic to your social and labor policies and friendly to your foreign policy of giving effective aid to Britain and her Allies in their desperate struggle against totalitarian dictatorship and aggression, we unite in calling upon you to use your power and influence to make available more jobs for Negro citizens in the defense industries so that Negroes may share proportionately in employment from the defense programs. Similarly we call upon you to advance the policy of integrating Negro Americans into the armed forces of our country.

"Up to now Negro citizens have gained comparatively nothing in the way of additional jobs from our national defense efforts. Nearly all of the companies in such important line of defense as airplane manufacturing, for example, refuse to hire Negroes. Again and again qualified Negro citizens have been turned down in applying for jobs in defense industries. In a number of instances young Negro Americans have been refused admission to government training schools which were providing training for mechanics in defense work. In some instances persons with Nazi sympathies have been able to obtain jobs in defense industries when Negroes were refused. Mr. Knudsen has refused to meet with representative Negro Americans seeking more defense employment; and while Mr. Hillman has given a sympathetic hearing to a Negro delegation and has taken steps to implement the government's policy of non-discrimination against Negroes in employment, he has been unable as yet to produce significant changes in the discriminatory practices of important defense industries.

To provide jobs for Negroes and opportunities for training of Negro youths on a fair basis in proportion to their share of the population is entirely just and fair; and on that basis alone we would be amply justified in making such a demand . . . "

The petition was signed by Layle Lane, Vice President American Federation of Teachers; Ralph J. Bunche, Professor Political Science, Howard Uni.; A. L. Jackson, Chicago; Noah C. A. Walter, Ass't Mgr., Laundry Workers Joint Board; Walter White, Executive Sec'y N. A. A. C. P.; Raymond Pace Alexander; Gertrude E. Ayer, Principal Public School No. 24; Rev. William Lloyd Imes; A. Phillip Randolph, President Brh'd Sleeping Car Porters; Frank R. Crowwaith, Chairman Negro Labor Committee; Willard S. Townsend, Int'l President United Transport Service Employees; Rev. Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Secretary Federal Council of Churches of Christ; William Pickens, Director N.A.A.C.P. Branches; Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.; Elmer Carter, N. Y. State Unemployment Insurance; Hobson R. Reynolds, Eastern Representative Pittsburgh Courier; Eunice H. Carter~~, Ass't Di~~strict Attorney, N. Y.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

WAGE-HOUR LAW VALUE STRESSED

National Defense Aided

By Legislation, Says Gen. Fleming

CHICAGO, May 13—(AP)—Gen. Philip B. Fleming asserted Tuesday that wage and hour legislation was an indispensable instrument of efficient production essential to national defense.

"No nation," he said, "can mobilize its industry to maximum output if it permits its employers to pay whatever wages and to work labor whatever hours they choose."

The administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Labor Department discussed the relation of defense to the legislation in an address prepared for the Chicago regional meeting of the Catholic conference on industrial problems.

Gen. Fleming asserted that increasing the work week would not necessarily insure increased production, that Britain had learned that fatigue from long hours resulted in a decline of productive efficiency.

Long hours in factories devoted to the manufacture of sensitive military equipment requiring precision adjustments were termed "not merely economically unsound, but close to criminal folly."

The administrator said that a prospective shortage of skilled labor behooved industry not to waste experienced craftsmen on machines which can be tended by semi-skilled workers.

Fleming asserted that he had received a report from the U. S. Employment Service indicating that many employers were refusing to hire alien and Negro craftsmen "with consequent detriment to national defense production."

"I do not doubt," he added, "that these very employers will be among the first to claim that time and a half for overtime is to blame for their inadequate production."

Fleming also said that conflicts between labor and employer must give way before public mediation, arbitration and statutory labor standards.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Organized Labor

NEGROES NEED TWO KINDS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO SECURE RIGHTS

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

MAY 31 1941

THAT there is race prejudice and exploitation of Negroes in the American labor movement should surprise no one. There is not an American institution to my knowledge where one cannot find some vestige of prejudice. Certainly the writer cannot see that this constitutes a rational reason for Negroes refusing to join the union. It would be just as stupid to say that Negroes should have nothing to do with the Republican Party (which is obviously prejudiced), or the Democratic Party, (which includes some of the worst Southern-Negro-haters in the country). The obvious answer in politics is for the Negro to get into both parties and work from within toward changing their attitude. This procedure should also be followed by the Negro in the labor field. That failure to do so will accomplish nothing but prepare the way for the Negro to finally be eliminated from industry, as this column has pointed out on several occasions.

Mr. Cayton

ORGANIZE

It is our contention that only through some organization of Negro workers—who can bring pressure from within as well as from without the labor movement—will any real change be made. Neither the legalistic approach of civil-rights organizations nor legislative action will ultimately be successful.

Some time ago the writer advocated the formation of a National Negro Trade Organization whose functions would be to organize from the ranks of the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. all Negro trade union men. This Negro block within labor's ranks would fight for the complete participation of Negroes. in all unions and against any act of segregation, jim crowism, or exploitation on the part of any union.

A National Negro Trade Organization would have a two-fold purpose. First it would have a general educational program which would have as its objectives the breaking down of the fear on the part of Negro workers of the organized labor movement. Its second task would be to break down prejudice within the ranks of organized labor and to demonstrate to organized white workers the necessity of cooperation with Negroes and including Negroes in their ranks on the basis of full equality.

NEED FOR LOBBY

In addition a Negro Trade Organization could act as a general lobby to represent the interests of the Negro working population in Washington. In the fight which the CIO is waging for the repeal of the poll tax abuses of the south, for example, there is no Negro labor organization that maintains a lobby in Washington to assist. There is no Negro organization in Washington bringing constant pressure, from the union point of view, on the Office of Production Management to see that Negroes are included in the defense contracts. Nor is there any national Negro union organization which is attempting to work with the A. F of L., or C. I. O., in straightening out the difficulties which arise in Sidney Hillman's office.

THIS IS a point which should be remembered. It was once thought that the Negro was a member of the general working class and taht as the problem of the working class was solved, so would be all the problems of the Negro. But we know now that in addition to his problem as a worker the Negro has a configuration of problems arising out of his identification as a Negro.

DOUBLE PROBLEM

The labor unions, to which every Negro should belong, should deal with such problems as those of wages, hours and general working conditions. These are the problems which the Negro shares with his fellow workers. But in addition he needs another organization—a vertical organization to which all Negro trade unionist would belong—which would address itself to those special problems arising out of his race.

To state it graphically, the horizontal organization based on class lines would include the Negro and white workers and deal with those problems which the Negro encounters as a worker. The vertical organizaion (whose membership would be solely Negro), would include Negroes from many unions and would deal with those special problems which arise out of the Negroes being a Negro in white America.

Only through the combination of both types of organization can the Negro address itself to the problems which he must face in securing complete participation in American industry.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LAMBASTS WHITE POSTAL WORKER ON RACIAL BIAS

JUN 28 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 26—(ANP)—Trezzvant W. Anderson of Charlotte, N. C., militant writer and prominently mentioned for the presidency of the National Alliance of Postal Employes, called the open expression of bias against promotions for Negro postal employes by Charles E. Kepner, white, of Chicago, candidate for vice president of the Railway Mail Association: "un-Ameri[illegible] narrow, definitely [illegible]judiced, and inimical to the [illegible]pressed desire of President F. D. Roosevelt for the relegation of race prejudice and discrimination during the national emergency."

Said Anderson: "Even if there were no national emergency existing, the statement of this man Kepner would be diametrically opposed to the democratic ideas, and the fact that he has seen fit to express himself openly on this stand, makes it clear that the bitter race prejudice and discriminations against our people, even in the federal service is no longer being concealed by the proponents of this doctrine.

COLOR PLAYS NO PART

Kepner, a railway postal clerk, address a letter to Supt. Cross of the Chicago Division of the Railway Mail Service asking that "no more colored clerks be promoted to 'clerks-in-charge' of Terminal Railway Post Offices." Kepner, a candidate for vice president of the first white postal group to exclude [illegible]embership, furthe[illegible]admittance of the National Alliance of Postal Employees Chicago unit to the Chicago Council of Government Organizations.

However, the answer of Division Supt. Cross was to the effect that color plays no part in the selection of men for promotion to higher positions in his branch of the postal service.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FHA CONTRIBUTING TO JOB JIM-CROW

JUL 5 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 3—(ANP)—Is the FHA the drawback in defense housing that is compelling emp[illegible]rs to refuse to hire Negroes i[illegible]as whe[illegible]ere is inadequate or no housing facilities for Negro workers? Such seems to be the case, according to information from [illegible]at office, which indicates that this housing group refuses to advance money to Negroes for houses in areas where the majority of residents are white, acting on the grounds that the Negro entry into such districts lowers property values.

On the other hand, it refuses to lend mon[illegible]n house[illegible]all Negro areas, [illegible]ng that the risk is too great.

There is a definite slack in building houses for Negro workers in the communities where there is a possibility of them to obtain employment, and this refusal to build houses for their accommodation gives employers an excuse for not hiring Negroes.

Here, it is reported, is an opportu[illegible]for the [illegible]nment to step [illegible] change some of its own "jim-crow" policies before attempting to foist them on the backs of private industry.

35c-1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Charge Maritime Body Is Easing Out Race Workers

JAN 11 1941

NEW YORK — Apparently taking a leaf from the Navy Department's policy of segregating Negroes to the role of mess attendants, the United States Marine service has gone a step further, quietly adopting a policy of gradually excluding Negro seamen from jobs as firemen and coal passers on government transport ships, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reveoled Friday.

The disclosure was made when the association announced that it had sent a letter of protest to the Chief Maritime service, U. S. Coast Guard headquarters at Washington, over the exclusion of three Negro seaman from jobs aboard the United States Army transport 'Old America," a former United States lines vessel taken over by the Maritime Service and now tied up at the pier at the foot of Fifty-eighth street in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The men, Lemuel Cherry, James Patrick and another seaman whose name was not immediately available, applied for jobs as firemen and coal passers aboard the vessel, a coal burner on Thursday, January 2 after receiving a message from the ship's engineer that men were needed for these jobs.

Cherry is a seaman with 19 years experience as a fireman. He was honorably discharged last February after completing three months of special training at the Maritime Service's training station at Hoffman Island, New York. He is a member of the Seafarer's International union, an A.F. of L. affiliate.

JAN 11 1941

"When we got there," he told the N.A.A.C.P., "we were told that the jobs were open but we had to obtain a pass at the Port Engineers office so that we would receive a medical examination. But when we asked for passes at the office, the woman in charge told us that she didn't know anything about jobs.

"While we were there four white seamen came in, got passes and were taken on immediately after their examination. Later the woman in charge of the Port Engineer's office told us that she was getting the men needed for the jobs from the Hoffman Island Training station. Although I showed my honorable discharge from that same training station, it didn't make any difference."

The three men sought information at the U. S. Maritime Service's New York office at 45 Broadway, but were told that nothing could be done about their case.

The N.A.A.C.P. learned that there are approximately 18 Negro seamen employed aboard the "Old America," and that as rapidly as they quit or are discharged they are supplanted by whites.

The ship was formerly tied up at the Port of Baltimore, Md., but was recently sent to the Brooklyn, N. Y. army base for use as an army transport, after being taken over by the Maritime service.

Leaders Need Mass Support, He Declares

Journal Guide
Norfolk, Va.

FEB 1 1941

South Not Alone In Unfairness, Says Labor Leader

Guide

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

NEGROES are not getting anywhere with national defense.

The whole national defense setup reeks with race prejudice, hatred, and discrimination. It is obvious to anyone who is not deaf, dumb and blind that the south is in the saddle. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Army, Navy, and Air Corps are dominated and virtually controlled by southerners.

MR. RANDOLPH

But the southerners are not alone responsible for the fact that Negroes are being brutally pushed around. The north, east, and west are also to blame, because they wink, connive at, and acquiesce in this practice of discriminating against Negroes.

But regardless of who is responsible for the raw deal Negroes are getting the big bald fact is they are getting it.

Responsible committees of Negroes who seek to intercede in behalf of the Negro being accorded the simple right to work in industries and on jobs serving national defense, and to serve in the Army, Navy, and Air Corps are being given polite assurances that Negroes will be given a fair deal. But it all ends there.

FAIR AND FAVORABLE POLICY

FEB 1 194

It seems apparent that even when well-meaning, responsible, top government officials agree upon a fair and favorable policy, there are loopholes, and subordinate officers in the Army, Navy, and Air Corps, full of race hatred, who seek its contravention, nullification, and evasion.

This is why upstanding, independent, able and intelligent Negroes should be in responsible posts of every department of the government. They must be there to stimulate, suggest and initiate the formulation of certain policies favorable to the Negro, and they must be there to help police these policies in the interest of their fair and consistent execution.

Now, fortunately, Negroes have good, able, and sound people in Dr. Channing H. Tobias in the Draft Board, Judge William H. Hastie in the War Department, Dr. Robert Weaver in the National Defense Commission, Frances Williams in the Consumers' Section, and a few others.

But they are helpless without the collective, mass support of the Negro people. Aggressive, articulate, determined, mass support will strengthen their hands.

CRY OUT DEMANDS

It is not enough for Negroes to want jobs in the factories, mills, mines, and offices, they must diplomatically and undiplomatically, ceremoniously and unceremoniously, cry out in no uncertain terms their demand for work and their rightful places in every department of the Army, Navy, and Air Corps ,based, of course, upon recognized qualifications.

GENERAL

Just a casual analysis and survey of the dynamics and mechanics of modern movements, legislation, administration and execution, show that only power can effect the enforcement and adoption of a given policy, however meritorious it may be. The virtue and rightness of a cause are not alone the condition and cause of its progress and acceptance. Power and pressure are at the foundation of the march of social justice and reform.

Negro America must bring its power and pressure to bear upon the agencies and representatives of the Federal Government to exact their rights in national defense employment and the armed forces of the country. No real, actual, bona fide, definite and positive pressure of the Negro masses has ever been brought to bear upon the executive and legislative branches of the city, state, and national governments.

Now, as to a practical program—**I suggest that TEN THOUSAND (10,000) Negroes march on Washington, D. C., the capitol of the Nation, with the slogan: WE LOYAL NEGRO AMERICAN CITIZENS DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK AND FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY.**

Negroes could join this march from various sections of the country from all trades, professions

---

Discrimination Against Negro Banned

JAN 19 1941

Journal
Savannah Ga.

Discrimination against Negro skilled, semi skilled and unskilled workers on the extensive $281,000,000 defense housing program was banned this week through an executive order issued by John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator.

Seeking to assure full participation of Negro workers in the employment phases of the huge construction program, Mr. Carmody, acting under the authority vested in the FWA Administration by Section 11 of the Act of October 14, 1940, issued the following regulation under which all contracts must be prosecuterd:

"There shall be no discrimination by reason of race, creed, color or political affiliation in the employment of persons, qualified by training and experience, for work in the development of defense housing at the site thereof."

At the same time, the FWA Administator established machinery to implement the Agency's non discriminatory policy and to handle specific compliants growing out of possible violations. Copies of the regulation were sent to all contractors working on defense housing and the executive order was published in the Federal Reisters on Thursday, January 9.

Mr. A. J. Sarre', the Director of Personnel of the Federal Works Agency, and Mr. W. J. Trent, Jr. who is the Racial Relations Officer in that office, will give special attention to the enforcement of the regulation against discrimination in work on the defense housing program.

The vast defense housing program will be carried out under the direction of several agencies in the FWA. This program includes the construction of an undetermined number of dwelling units to be erected with the $150,000,000 appropriation authorized in the Lanham Act. A number of these projecst are now under construction.

Thirty two defense housing projects, containing 13,035 dwelling units, will be constructed by the United States Housing Authority at an estimated cost of more than $45,000,000 in contracts.

....

Other phases of the total defense housing program are being carried out by the Federal Works Agency. One is the construction of the bulk of the housing provided for in the War Department's share of the $100,000,000 housing allocation in the Second Supplemental Defense Appropriation Act. The Secretary of War recently allocated $45,700,000 of this sum to the FWA for housing projects for families of enlisted Army men and for married civilian Army personnel. Administratro Carmody designated the Public Buildings Administration as the agency to carry out this program. Under this designation the PBA will construct a minimum of sixty eight projects.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Big Industrial Concerns Keep Race Labor On Auction Block

By CHARLES E. HALL, Grand Statistician

JAN 30 1941

This column holds no brief for the Captains of Industry or for certain labor unions because we believe that Negro labor is still on the auction block and is being used, greatly to our disadvantage, as a pawn principally by industry which has for years considered the Negro only as a RESERVE labor force to be used as a threat against demands for increased wages and unionism. It is the old strategy, DIVIDE and CONQUER.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Quite recently a local unit of the United Auto Workers in the California plant of the Vultee Aircraft Company adopted a resolution to "do all in its power to break the anti-labor racial discrimination in the aircraft and national defense industries." This is in harmony with the qualifications for membership in the parent body of the United Automobile, Aircraft and Vehicle Workers of America which reads as follows: "Any worker of good moral character engaged in the industry is eligible for membership." If this is the attitude of the workers it is quite evident that the failure of the company to employ Negroes can be placed upon the men who own and operate the factories rather than upon the labor unions. In none of the national organizations of the building trades or the metal-trades unions do the membership qualifications exclude Negroes and we know that most of the billions of dollars now being poured out for our national defense is being paid to the building and to the metal and machinery industries. However, it is common knowledge that although Negroes are not excluded from membership in the parent bodies many of the autonomous local unions in both the building trades and the metal and machinery trades do not accept Negro workers or encourage their employment, and their apprentice regulations make it almost impossible for a Negro to learn certain trades. But unlike the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America their membership qualifications are not limited to "Any WHITE person between the ages of 16 and 65 years, who believes in the existence of a Supreme Being," or to persons of the CAUCASIAN race" as in the Railway Mail Association, a public service organization whose members are employed by the United States Government

JOBS, CHARITY OR CRIME

During the last twenty-five years only a very few Negro workers in the industrial centers have been fooled either by industrialists or labor leaders. They know or believe that they are merely PAWNS and that aliens or other races are always given preferential treatment in most industries. And they also know that they must either work, get on a relief roll, become members of a low social strata or STARVE and very few able-bodied men or women, colored or white, prefer starvation to charity or crime. Unfortunately, however, it appears that some of the industrialists who now have large and remunerative Government contracts have little sympathy for any group of unemployed and in many instances are completely without sense of social obligations. Money has a strange-hold upon their patriotism and their ideas of social justice have been subjugated.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

JAN 30 1941

There are those who believe that our unemployment problem would almost disappear if industry generally would adopt the policy of the Ford Motor Company whose colored workers constitute about ten percent of the total number of employees. Certainly our national defense industries could and should make such arrangements for technical, skilled and unskilled Negro labor. Before the depression when industry flourished, less than eight percent of the more than fourteen million persons employed in the manufacturing and mechanical industries were Negroes and nearly sixty-four per cent of these were laborers in the low-wage rackets. It is probable that less than five percent of all the persons now employed in these industries are colored although the records of some of these industries indicate that "Negro workers show the same efficiency or greater efficiency than whites."

MECHANICAL TRAINING

The progress of a Race or people is measured largely by its participation in the manufacturing industries rather than by its ability to orate, scrub a marble floor, carry a plate of soup, wield a whisk broom or shine a shoe, and unless we seek and are given more opportunities in industry our status as citizens will be retarded and the standard of living of our masses will not be above the subsistence level. Wherever we find a people who do not measure up to the requirements of the age in which we live we will also find that they lack the mental development that results from industrial occupations. Men who follow these occupations and contact skillful men though the handling of delicate and intricate machinery generally become mentally alert accurate and steady thinkers, and this is the opportunity we seek as citizens of the United States — NOT AS FIFTH COLUMNISTS. — The Washington Eagle.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

U. S. Employment Service Urged to Abolish Racial Identity on Job Queries

JAN 4 1941

NEW YORK—The United States Employment Service has been urged by the NAACP to issue a statement to its offices throughout the country, calling for abandonment of the practice of inquiring of prospective employers the racial identity of the workers desired, and to instruct these offices to send job applicants out to prospective jobs as they are available regardless of race, according to an announcement made here today by the association.

The Employment Service was urged to seek out Negro skilled workers and place their names on file precisely as such promotional work is done for war veterans. The national office of the Service, located in Washington was also asked to conduct an investigation into the practices followed by the various employment centers throughout the country under its jurisdiction.

Announcement of the Association's action in the matter of wiping out discriminatory practices against Negro job applicants was made by the N.A.A.C.P. following last week in Washington between Walter White, secretary of the association, and Ewan Clague, director of the United States Employment Service. JAN 4 1941

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Despite Union Cards Contractors Specified "White Only" For Jobs

JAN 9 1941

WASHINGTON, Jan. (ANP)—From points as far distant from each other as Kansas City, Mo., and Norfolk, Va., came reports last week of rank discrimination in the letting of defense jobs. In Norfolk, numerous carpenters who rushed to the Virginia State Employment bureau, a branch of the federal employment service, were told by the manager, E. P. Hornlein, that he could not place them because the contractors in charge of the government contract jobs specified white carpenters. Hornlein insisted that the responsibility of the employment service ended when he supplied the type of labor from his files requested by prospective employers and contractors.

In Kansas City where two weeks ago Negro carpenters were refused jobs at Fort Riley, the excuse was given that only union carpenters were being hired. Fortunately a group of colored craftsmen had an organization in Kansas City, Kan., known as the Colored Builders of Kansas. This group served as a nucleus for skilled carpenters who made a demand upon the Greater Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America for admittance to the union.

The Negro workmen were permitted to form a local through a special dispensation which reduced the joining fee from $80 to $30. Ten men joined promptly and the time of the dispensation was extended 30 days to enable others to enter the local.

On Monday, however, armed with their new union cards, certified by the brotherhood, the Negro workers reported at Fort Riley and asked for work but were told that the contractors were refusing to accept Negro labor. This incident took place upon a federally owned cantonment. Efforts to bring pressure to crack the contractor or abrogate his contract are being [illegible] it [illegible]

JAN 9 1941

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

URGES KNUDSEN TO ASSIST IN JIM CROW FIGHT

JAN 18 1941

Flay Discrimination In Employment at General Motors Plant

NEW YORK — William Knudsen, co-chairman with Sidney Hillman, of the President's recently organized four-man National Defense Board, was urged by, the NAACP to bring pressure to bear on the General Motors Corporation, which he formerly headed, to change the company's policy of "widespread discrimination" in the employment of Negroes in skilled, semi-skilled, supervisory and executive positions in its plants.

The request for action from Knudson was contained in a letter sent to the OPM official January 8. and made public this week, after the board had issued the following statement in a general announcement outlining its policies:

"We shall have need of the active, aggressive, and enthusiastic cooperation of every man, woman and child in the United States if we are to make this arsensal in America adequate to the successful defense of democracy and freedom."

Point Out Jim Crow

Pointing out that reliable sources reveal that "discriminanation against Negroes, so far as employment is concerned in the General Motors plant, is more widespread now than ever before," the letter continued: "This is especially true with respect to skilled and semi-skilled work and supervisory and executive positions."

The letter, which was signed by Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, asked Knudsen "to use your great influence with the General Motors Corporation to the end that this policy may be changed. I ask this not only because of the injustice which this policy creates for qualified Negro workers but also because the Negro constitutes one-tenth of the population.

"These twelve million Negroes," the letter concluded, "include a huge and important percentage of the 'every man, woman and child in the United States' whose 'active, aggressive and enthusiastic cooperation' are desperately needed by the Government of the United States for 'the successful defense of democracy and freedom.'"

The General Motors Corporation has received millions of dollars in defense contracts from the federal government.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Ask Knudsen To Curb Auto Industry Bias

JAN 16 1941

Conference With General Motors Officials Is Urged

NEW YORK — William Knudsen, co-chairman with Sidney Hillman, of the President's recently organized four-man National Defense Board, was urged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to bring pressure to bear on the General Motors Corporation, which he formerly headed, to change the company's policy of "widespread discrimination" in the employment of Negroes in skilled, semi-skilled, supervisory and executive positions in its plants.

The request for action from Knudsen was contained in a letter sent to the OPM official January 8, and made public today, after the board had issued the following statement in a general announcement outlining its policies:

"We shall have need of the active, aggressive, and enthusiastic cooperation of every man, woman, and child in the United States if we are to make this arsenal in America adequate to the successful defense of democracy and freedom."

Discrimination Noted

Pointing out that reliable sources reveal that "discrimination against Negroes, so far as employment is concerned in the General Motors plant, is more widespread now than ever before," the letter continued: "This is especially true with respect to skilled and semi-skilled work and supervisory and executive positions."

The letter, which was signed by Walter White, executive Secretary of the NAACP, asked Knudson "to use your great influence with the General Motors Corporation to the end that this policy may be changed. I ask this not only because of the injustice which this policy creates for qualified Negro workers but also because the Negro constitutes one-tenth of the population.

"These twelve million Negroes," the letter concluded, "include a huge and important percentage of the 'every man, woman and child in the United States' whose 'active, aggressive and enthusiastic cooperation' are desperately needed by the Government of the United States for 'the successful defense of democracy and freedom.'"

The General Motors Corporation has received millions of dollars in defense contracts from the federal government.

JAN 16 1941

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Firemen Fear Loss of Railroad Jobs

~~JAN 16 1941~~

Revisions Sought in Labor Contracts Because of Diesels.

JAN 16 1941

Fears of about 5,000 Negro railroad firemen in the south that they will be displaced through revision of existing labor contracts, because o fintroduction of Diesel engines, were accompanied by developments in various quarters yesterday.

In Washington, officials of the Southern Railway System, one of 19 railroads and terminals involved, conferred with representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen—the majority, white union organization—but declined to agree to the revision.

A meeting was held in Atlanta by Local No. 20, International Association of Railroad Employes, a majority, Negro union, on seeking an injunction, but no final decision was reached. It was said no court would enjoin an action not yet taken.

The central point was said to be that, since Negro firemen are not eligible to promotion as engineers under the existing contracts, they would be displaced entirely through the following four amendments proposed by the white brotherhood:

"1. Only promotable men will be employed for service as locomotive firemen or for service as helpers on other than steam power.

"2. When new runs or jobs are established in any service, only promotable firemen or helpers will be assigned to them.

"3. When permanent vacancies occur on established runs or jobs in any service, only promotable firemen or helpers will be assigned to them.

"4. It is understood that promotable firemen or helpers on other than steam power are those in line for promotion under the present rules and practices to the position of locomotive engineer."

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

U. S. Rules Defied on Housing Project; Only 3 Skilled Negroes Used

JAN 18 1941

A memorandum regarding the small number of colored workers employed in the construction of the Frederick Douglass Dwellings was presented to Clarence Johnson, assistant for Negro labor relations of the U. S. Housing Authority, by U. S. Tate, chairman of the local NAACP committee on labor and industry, Friday.

Others who accompanied Mr. Tate to deliver the memorandum were: the Rev. Arthur D. Gray, of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress; Eugene Davidson, of the New Negro Alliance; Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone and George Johnson, of the NAACP.

The statement outlined the situation which has existed at the Douglass Dwellings with slight variation since the project was begun last August.

Only 3 Skilled Negroes

In the week of December 4, 1940, there were 166 skilled workers employed, only three colored, who received .009 per cent of the pay roll for skilled workers. Of 138 unskilled workers, 69 were colored and received 49.5 per cent of the pay roll for unskilled labor. thousands of dollars of public money will be diverted from a group sorely in need of work, which meets proscription and discrimination on every side in its efforts to obtain a livelihood.

No Shortage Exists

"Our investigations indicate that the aforementioned non-compliance with the regulation of the U.S.H.A. is not due to any shortage of Negro labor, skilled or unskilled, and it would appear therefore that the conditions set forth above should be rectified forthwith.

"We appeal to the U.S.H.A. to obtain compliance on the part of the general building contractor with the spirit and letter of the regulations prohibiting discrimination against Negroes in employment on the Frederick Douglass Dwellings.

"We also ask that the U.S.H.A. take similar steps with regard to other government-sponsored housing developments now under construction in the District and prevent the recurrence of such unjust and inequitable treatment of Negroes on future projects over which the U.S.H.A. is required.

The U.S.H.A. regulations indicate that of the funds for housing projects in the District, 12 per cent of the pay roll for skilled labor and 84.6 per cent for unskilled should be allocated to colored workers.

In calling attention to this non-compliance, the statement declared:

"The Frederick Douglass project is one of nine similiar developments planned or the District, seven of which are for occupancy by Negroes."

"Unless some method is found by which colored citizens can be assured the specified proportion of employment of these projects by law to exercise supervision.'

To Ask Report

The housing assistant asserted that the U.S.H.A. is anxious to see the Negro labor percentage met by the general building contractors in all localities but that different cities presented a variety of factors with regard to the labor supply.

The official, who has just returned from a tour of housing projects in the South and West, said that he would call for a report on the Douglass Dwellings through the regular agency channels with a view to correcting the situation.

Charlotte N. C. Observer
December 5, 1940

The Problem of Negro Youth.

To The Observer:

Page 20 of the Dec. 3rd issue of Look magazine brought to my attention an interesting group of true-to-life photographs, showing in convincing fashion the actual social and economic problems which confront the typical American Negro youth of the present era.

In addition, the explanatory paragraphs accompanying the series of illustrations brought to light some highly informative statistics.

We learned that the average Negro youth with a full time job, works 49 hours a week for $8.71 (Caucasian youth, 44 hours for $15.17.) Of Negro youth up to the age of 24, 9 1-2 per cent get semi-skilled jobs, (Caucasian youth 20 per cent,) 2 per cent get skilled jobs, in comparison to an 8 per cent quota for Caucasian youth.

I was forced to ask myself the question, "Just what social, physical, mental or industrial circumstances or environmental conditions weigh most heavily upon the shoulders of American Negro youth, with regard to the general retardment of our united economic progress? After duly considering the respective problems of labor, housing, health and discrimination, I finally reached the conclusion that the labor angle of the situation is important, but judging from the statistical evidence presented it seems that discrimination has been the cardinal evil which has wrought most havoc toward breeding discontent, poverty, and juvenile delinquency among Negro youth.

The Honorable David Lloyd George, ex-Prime Minister of England, said in his famous article titled. "Why the Jew is Persecuted,' which appeared in the March 6, 1937, issue of Liberty Magazine, (see pages 6 and 7,) quote, "No country is entitled to claim loyalty unto death from a people to whom it denies the elementary rights of humanity," unquote.

Therefore, since the harsh intricacies of the social pattern under which we exist are not favorable toward the normal economic development of Negro youth, why should we not be permitted to seek prosperity and peace in other lands, where we may live as a separate community with full liberty and opportunity to profitably present the special contribution of the Negro into the hands of civilization with honorable credit? Liberia is already established. It is my firm and conscientious opinion that a normal transfer of Negro talent from these to Oriental shores, will be a boon to civilization in all lands.

Wm. MALET CARPENTER.
Maxton.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Refusal To Hire Negro G-Men Costly

35-C

Definite Spot In FBI for Use Of Black Agents

WASHINGTON BUREAU
ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Recent disasters in the United States involving the destruction of millions of dollars worth of supplies and manufacturers for Great Britain have forcibly brought home the need for more men in the FBI, Edgar Hoover's lily-white body operating under the department of justice.

Time after time, it has been pointed out that the admission of Negroes to this group of investigators for the government would go a long way toward solving some of the mysterious happenings now beginning to throw terrific scare into citizens of this country.

Adamant in his personal rulings on the refusal to hire Negro investigators, the Federal Bureau of Investigation as administered by Mr. Hoover has in the opinion of many lost the services of one of the most valuable groups in America.

COSTLY TO GOVERNMENT

This refusal to hire Negroes costing the government plenty, although in one of the recent cases, it is said that the FBI had warned the government to be on the alert for just such occurrences over the lengthy recent holiday.

There is a possibility that the publicity given the extended leaves of soldiers had much to do with the untoward activities over the week end, whereas if the warnings had been heeded, and leaves curtailed, saboteurs would not have had the splendid opportunities they enjoyed.

JUN 7 1941

Having been warned by the President that a state of national emergency exists, and despite the well known fact that the United States is infested with agents itching for an opportunity to destroy, the laxity with which this emergency is being observed causes grave concern and points to the need for the use of more Negroes in every phase of the defense as well as other programs in the country.

One of these fine days, some smart member of the other race is going to wake up to the fact that they are allowing themselves to be duped into a state of safety through the use of foreign born whites, or money mad members of their own race whereas they could obtain some semblance of security through the use of the 13,000,000 Negroes who know no allegiance other than to the United States of America.

There is a definite spot in the FBI immediately for the use of hundreds of Negroes, and there are many who could step in right now and fill the bill, according to observers who have watched the matter closely.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Seamen, Dockers Suffer Under 'Defense' Whip

JAN 22 1941

By J. L. Law

Along with the rest of the Negro people, we Negro seamen are feeling the results of the drive to destroy the civil and economic and social rights of our people, so painfully won by years of struggle. We have been singled out by reaction as the group for special abuse by the shipowners in their drive against the rights of all labor.

With the increasing scarcity of jobs as a result of the shipowners sabotage of our merchant marine by sale or transfer to foreign registry by profit-seeking war-mongers of Wall Street, the Jim-Crow tactic to deprive us of the right to work has increased. We know the source of this attack on us and its object. The advocates of Jim-Crow are the conscious or unconscious agents of the shipowners, every bit as low and contemptible as the labor spy. They are trying to destroy the unity of our union from within, to the advantage of the shipowners.

The Negro seamen know the sacrifices being asked of the workers is not for the defense of democracy but for the prolongation of this imperialist slaughter and the profits of Wall Street.

THEY HAVE SEEN IT

In our travels we have seen the results of the exercise of the British form of democracy in misery and suffering of her colonial peoples. The denial of rights to our own people in the United States, the attack on the rights of all working people is a living repudiation of the demagogy that this is a war for democracy. Glaring examples are the denial of the voting rights of 10,000,000 Americans by the Poll Tax and official silence on the anti-lynch bill that amounts almost to condoning the lynch law.

We Negro seamen stand shoulder to shoulder with all other workers in the fight to defend, maintain and advance the civil liberties and rights of the people. We repudiate the policy of aid to British imperialism just as we repudiate the imperialism of the Axis camp. Our aid will go to the fight to make democracy a living reality for our people and all working people.

We will expose the attempt of the tools of the shipowners to destroy our union and we demand that national defense begin with a defense of the living standards and rights of all the people against the attacks of war-mongering, profit-seekers.

ON THE BEACH

The ship owners are taking advantage of the imperialist war and the war policies of the Roosevelt administration to weaken and if possible to destroy the organizations and gains of the seamen and longshoremen. They are seeking, therefore, to destroy the unity of the maritime workers and have seized upon the weapon of Negro discrimination in order to create the division of Negro and white that they desire. Recent developments point more and more to the fact that the shipowners are utilizing this policy energetically.

The war, with its resulting dislocation of American shipping, is affecting the Negro maritime workers to an even greater extent than maritime workers generally. The decline in shipping Europe and the Roosevelt war policy of "aid to Britain" whereby hundreds of ships have been sold or transferred to foreign registry, have led to a substantial decrease in jobs for seamen generally.

Moreover the very great reduction in the passenger trade has especially affected the Negro seamen the bulk of whom are employed (because of discrimination) in the steward department. As a result, the opportunities for jobs of the Negro seamen have been seriously curtailed. It is in this situation that the shipowners are extending their policy of deliberately refusing jobs to qualified Negro seamen in direct violation of the union contracts. This has created a situation where Negro seamen, long in the industry, are forced to sit on the beach while white workers, new in the industry, sail in their place.

Similarly in the longshore industry, where the competition for jobs have been sharpened by the even worsened features of the discriminating shape-up system as a result of the war, the Negro longshoremen have felt in a decline in jobs the disruptive tactics of the shipowners, aided in this case by the reactionary Ryan machine in the longshore union. Typical of the methods employedby the shipowners is the recent case where a ship upon which Negro longshoremen had been employed for years was transferred to a new dock and white longshoremen taken on in their place.

Numerous examples could be cited but it is already sufficiently clear that the shipowners are completely in line with the policy of Negro discrimination followed by Wall Street and the Roosevelt administration. The situation in the maritime industry is only another phase of the policy which today affects all the "defense" industries, the Army and the Navy. This policy of Negro discrimination is not going unchallenged by the maritime workers, white as well as Negro.

Recently a letter appeared in the "Pilot," the NMU paper, signed by 150 white seamen who realizing that "the solution (of Negro discrimination) is todav a life and death matter for our union" pledged themselves to assist the union to ensure "no discrimination on all ships we sail" and "to resist to the limit any attempt to split the union on this issue since we feel that it can only be solved by the unity and understanding of the rank and file." And they added . . . "we desire to show the shipowners that the NMU seamen are ready to fight them to a finish." Likewise, among the white longshore there are indications, although to a lesser extent, that action against Negro discriimnation are maturing.

WHITE SEAMEN ACT

The white maritime workers are increasingly realizing that the attempt to divide the maritime workers is one of the shipowners most strategic weapons in their drive to wreck the maritime unions, deprive the seamen and longshoremen of their hard-won gains, insufficient as they are yet. The maritime workers clearly see that this situation is directly connected with the war from which the shipowners are reaping huge profits and with the efforts of Roosevelt to draw America into the slaughter.

The mobilization of all maritime workers against Negro discrimination and Jim Crow and for jobs for Negroes and Negro rights is part of the "all out" fight of the American people against the war-mongers led by Roosevelt, for peace, democracy and security.

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPOINTS NEGRO EXECUTIVE

JUN 12 1941

WITH the signing of the Rainseck Civil Service Bill by President Roosevelt, Negroes became immediately active to protect several thousand members of the race now employed by NYA, CCC and all other agencies that were brought under Civil Service.

A committee headed by Mr. Edgar Brown called at the White House and at the office of the Civil Service Commission. One of the objects of the committee was to secure the appointment of a Negro in an executive capacity on the Commission. This was accomplished. The Commission, according to the committee, intends to enforce the provision against discrimination on the account of race. The member of our race appointed to such a "high administrative position "is to report and investigate cases of discrimination."

The administration in Washington has adopted a policy of appointing Negroes on all boards and agencies which handle many cases involving the welfare of Negroes.

JUN 12 1941

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

"WHITES ONLY" SHOULD NOT APPLY TO ANY NATIONAL DEFENSE PROJECTS—IN A TRUE DEMOCRACY EVERY MAN MUST HAVE EQUAL RIGHT TO WORK.

FEB 1 1941

AS I SEE IT, the article published in the December 31, 1940 issue of New Masses by Jimmie Morison is very illuminating on the Negro situation in regards to the National Defense program. For the benefit of our readers we reprint the following extract:—

"Are you native, white, reliable, and intelligent?

"If you are, there may be a job for you in the war industries. If you are native, black, reliable, and intelligent, there is none. National policy has been established: the great corporations which are receiving billions of dollars in orders for war in "defense of democracy" have adopted Jim Crow as their own.

"Proof? Millions of Negro workers are unemployed. Millions are trying to find work in plants now producing aircraft, machine tools, motors, stell, ships—building cantonments, roads, making uniforms.

"With few and unimportant exceptions, the sign is out: 'White Only.'

"In Henry R. Luce's weekly magazine Time, issue of November 25, a full page advertisement of the United Gas Pipe Line Co., invited industrialists to build to build new plants in the gulf states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Florida. Labor, said the ad, was available, 'native, white, reliable, intelligent.' The National Urban League, which acts as an agency for obtaining jobs for Negroes, protested to Time, to United Gas Pipe, to the National Association of Manufacturers, and to the United States Chamber of Commerce.

"Only the Chamber of Commerce replied. It evasively declared that it could not discuss the policy of a member organization.

"In 1930, 5,503,535 Negroes above the age of ten were rated as employable by the federal census. Of these 2,369,430 lived in the five gulf states. No detailed figures are available in the 1940 census, but it is likely that now more than 2,500,000 Negroes live in the area in which United Gas Pipe monopolizes the sale of natural gas.

National Jim Crow

"Jim crow policy is not sectional in scope. Giant industries of the North which are receiving war order largesse from the administration deny jobs to Negroes in East, North and West as well as South. No war industry jobs are open to Negroes in New York City, according to organizations which are seeking to defend the Negroes' right to work. In New York City the case load of Negroes on relief has risen from 21 percent in 1937, to 25 percent in 1940, despite a drop in the number of white workers on relief. No Negro works in the aircraft, aircraft equipment, shipbuilding, chemical, munition, machine tool, motor, steel and iron, and other war industries of the East unless he accepts heavy, unskilled, stevedore jobs. There has been no decrease in Negro unemployment in the Pittsburgh area, although the steel mills are working at 98 percent of capacity. Except where CIO contracts provide against discrimination in motors and aircraft—as at Vultee—very few jobs are open to Negroes in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle.

In the South this policy is a considered one of segregation for political purposes.

But in the North this is not the case. The Negro votes in the North. Why, then, the national opposition to employing Negroes? Why are vocational courses operated by industries closed to Negroes? Why does the New York State Employment Service advertise for 300 carpenters to work on army cantonments—"white only?" Why does the same bureau ask for army cooks—"white only"? Why are Negro students who pay for their own technical education in private schools left standing on street corners, jobless? Why are appeals of the National Urban League to the Sperry Gyroscope Co., left unanswered?

The Negro today is a powerful force for democracy in America. To educate him, to give him a job security, to place him on a plane of equality in skill jobs would be to liberate in part his pent-up desires for equal treatment. Therefore, as a considered, planned program for reaction the industrial overlords of the administration's war program have rejected Negro participation. Negroes cannot fly in the army or navy. They can do only menial work.

"The role played by Sidney Hillman in this situation is a sorry one. In the office of the Labor Division of the National Defense Advisory Commission is Robert C. Weaver, in charge of Negro labor. Mr. Weaver has succeeded in obtaining certain minute concessions. In Maryland, Arkansas and Virginia, where by means of state control of jobs Negro construction workers were barred from work on army cantonments, Mr. Weaver has been able to induce AFL building trades unions to permit the use of Negro carpenters. For the record, this looks like a victory against Jim Crow. But Mr. Hillman has been as silent as death about the almost universal discrimination against Negroes.

"Among trade unions, only the progressive majority of the CIO has established a policy of fighting against discrimination because of color, creed, of political belief.

"In a true democracy every man have an equal right to work."

FEB 1 1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Maritime Service Easing Negro Seamen Out Of Jobs On Ships

JAN 1 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(ANP)—Apparently taking a leaf from the navy department's policy of segregating Negroes to the role of mess attendants, the United States Maritime service has gone a step further, quietly adopting a policy of gradually excluding Negro seamen from jobs as firemen and coal passers on government transport ships.

The disclosure was made when the NAAACP announced it has sent a letter of protest to the Chief Maritime Service U. S. Coast Guard headquarters at Washington, over the exclusion of three Negro seamen from jobs aboard the United States army transport, "Old America," a former United States Lines vessel, taken over by the maritime service and now tied up at the pier at the foot of 58th street in Brooklyn.

JAN 11 1941

MEET RED TAPE

The men, Lemuel Cherry, James Patrick, and another seaman, whose name was not immediately available, applied for jobs as firemen and coal passers aboard the vessel, a coal burner, on Jan. 2, after receiving a message from the ship's engineer that men were needed for thes jobs.

Cherry is a seaman with 19 years experience as a fireman. He was honorably discharged last February after completing three months of special training at the maritime service training station at Hoffman Island, N. Y. He is a member of an affiliate branch of the A. F. of L.

"When we got there," he told the NAACP, "we were told that the jobs were open but we had to obtain a pass at the port engineer's office so that we could receive a medical examination. But when w easked for passes at the office we were told by the woman in charge that she didn't know anything about jobs. But while we were waiting four white seamen came in, got passes and were taken on immediately after their examination. Later the woman told us that she was getting the men needed for the jobs from the Hoffman island training station. Although I showed my honorable discharge from that same training station, it didn't make any difference."

ALL UNION MEN

All of the men are union seamen, who have been working on the WPA seamen's project since last summer. Cherry was one of such a group formerly employed by the Madison line, a subsidiary of the Eastern Steamship linse, who was discharged last August when the maritime service took over these ships converting them into oil burners. At that time all the Negro firemen and coal passers were discharged. The reason given was that the men could not be trained to handle oil burning vessels.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Order Blocks Civil Service Discrimination

350

Issues Instructions To Department Heads To Cut Out Old Practice

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Climaxing several years of intense effort on the part of Negro organizations and crusading individuals, President Roosevelt this week issued a new executive order banning discrimination in jobs in the Federal Civil Service, including U. S. Post Office workers.

SEP 19 1941

For the postal workers it means that no longer will the policy of declining to promote Negro clerks to foremanships and higher supervisory jobs be followed; no longer will railway mail lines be staffed by "white" clerks in charge, for F. D. R.'s order affects all branches of the civil service, as outlined in his executive order sent to every department head from the temporary White House at Hyde Park last Saturday night.

The most recent moves came to President Roosevelt's attention through the forceful presentation of the "New Orleans Post Office" and the "Charlotte Letter Carrier" cases, each of which created quite nationwide resentment over the policy of subordinate appointing officers who refused to appoint Negroes as clerks and carriers, as in New Orleans and Charlotte respectively.

In the latter case, during 1940, a sensational F. B. I. Civil Service-Post Office investigation took place, resulting in the indictment of Lieut. Col. Paul Youts, white, Charlotte postmaster and several other whites by a Federal grand jury at Asheville, N. C., Monday, August 25. Youts, at present, is free under a $2,000 bond for trial in October.

In the New Orleans case, Postmaster Joseph Ferguson refused to give seven Negroes opportunity to take non-competitive examinations for post office clerks, after they had served for three or more years as "laborers" after receiving such appointment from having taken the clerk-carrier examinations, two of these made 100 percent on the mail sorting tests.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

"WHITES ONLY" SHOULD NOT APPLY TO ANY NATIONAL DEFENSE PROJECTS—IN A TRUE DEMOCRACY EVERY MAN MUST HAVE EQUAL RIGHT TO WORK.

AS I SEE IT, the article published in the December 31, 1940 issue of New Masses by Jimmie Morison is very illuminating on the Negro situation in regards to the National Defense program. For the benefit of our readers we reprint the following extract:—

"Are you native, white, reliable, and intelligent?

FEB 1 1941

"If you are, there may be a job for you in the war industries. If you are native, black, reliable, and intelligent, there is none. National policy has been established: the great corporations which are receiving billions of dollars in orders for war in "defense of democracy" have adopted Jim Crow as their own.

"Proof? Millions of Negro workers are unemployed. Millions are trying to find work in plants now producing aircraft, machine tools, motors, stell, ships—building cantonments, roads, making uniforms.

FEB 1 1941

"With few and unimportant exceptions, the sign is out: 'White Only.'

"In Henry R. Luce's weekly magazine Time, issue of November 25, a full page advertisement of the United Gas Pipe Line Co., invited industrialists to build to build new plants in the gulf states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Florida. Labor, said the ad, was available, 'native, white, reliable, intelligent.' The National Urban League, which acts as an agency for obtaining jobs for Negroes, protested to Time, to United Gas Pipe, to the National Association of Manufacturers, and to the United States Chamber of Commerce.

"Only the Chamber of Commerce replied. It evasively declared that it could not discuss the policy of a member organization.

"In 1930, 5,503,535 Negroes above the age of ten were rated as employable by the federal census. Of these 2,369,430 lived in the five gulf states. No detailed figures are available in the 1940 census, but it is likely that now more than 2,500,000 Negroes live in the area in which United Gas Pipe monopolizes the sale of natural gas.

National Jim Crow

"Jim crow policy is not sectional in scope. Giant industries of the North which are receiving war order largesse from the administration deny jobs to Negroes in East, North and West as well as South. No war industry jobs are open to Negroes in New York City, according to organizations which are seeking to defend the Negroes' right to work. In New York City the case load of Negroes on relief has risen from 21 percent in 1937, to 25 percent in 1940, despite a drop in the number of white workers on relief. No Negro works in the aircraft, aircraft equipment, shipbuilding, chemical, munition, machine tool, motor, steel and iron, and other war industries of the East unless he accepts heavy, unskilled, stevedore jobs. There has been no decrease in Negro unemployment in the Pittsburgh area, although the steel mills are working at 98 percent of capacity. Except where CIO contracts provide against discrimination in motors and aircraft—as at Vultee—very few jobs are open to Negroes in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle.

In the South this policy is a considered one of segregation for political purposes.

But in the North this is not the case. The Negro votes in the North. Why, then, the national opposition to employing Negroes? Why are vocational courses operated by industries closed to Negroes? Why does the New York State Employment Service advertise for 300 carpenters to work on army cantonments—"white only?" Why does the same bureau ask for army cooks—"white only"? Why are Negro students who pay for their own technical education in private schools left standing on street corners, jobless? Why are appeals of the National Urban League to the Sperry Gyroscope Co., left unanswered?

The Negro today is a powerful force for democracy in America. To educate him, to give him a job security, to place him on a plane of equality in skill jobs would be to liberate in part his pent-up desires for equal treatment. Therefore, as a considered, planned program for reaction the industrial overlords of the administration's war program have rejected Negro participation. Negroes cannot fly in the army or navy. They can do only menial work.

"The role played by Sidney Hillman in this situation is a sorry one. In the office of the Labor Division of the National Defense Advisory Commission is Robert C. Weaver, in charge of Negro labor. Mr. Weaver has succeeded in obtaining certain minute concessions. In Maryland, Arkansas and Virginia, where by means of state control of jobs Negro construction workers were barred from work on army cantonments, Mr. Weaver has been able to induce AFL building trades unions to permit the use of Negro carpenters. For the record, this looks like a victory against Jim Crow. But Mr. Hillman has been as silent as death about the almost universal discrimination against Negroes.

"Among trade unions, only the progressive majority of the CIO has established a policy of fighting against discrimination because of color, creed, of political belief.

"In a true democracy every man have an equal right to work."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Maritime Service Easing Negro Seamen Out Of Jobs On Ships

JAN 1 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(ANP)—Apparently taking a leaf from the navy department's policy of segregating Negroes to the role of mess attendants, the United States Maritime service has gone a step further, quietly adopting a policy of gradually excluding Negro seamen from jobs as firemen and coal passers on government transport ships.

The disclosure was made when the NAAACP announced it has sent a letter of protest to the Chief Maritime Service U. S. Coast Guard headquarters at Washington, over the exclusion of three Negro seamen from jobs aboard the United States army transport, "Old America," a former United States Lines vessel, taken over by the maritime service and now tied up at the pier at the foot of 58th street in Brooklyn.

JAN 11 1941

MEET RED TAPE

The men, Lemuel Cherry, James Patrick, and another seaman, whose name was not immediately available, applied for jobs as firemen and coal passers aboard the vessel, a coal burner, on Jan. 2, after receiving a message from the ship's engineer that men were needed for thes jobs.

Cherry is a seaman with 19 years experience as a fireman. He was honorably discharged last February after completing three months of special training at the maritime service training station at Hoffman Island, N. Y. He is a member of an affiliate branch of the A. F. of L.

"When we got there," he told the NAACP, "we were told that the jobs were open but we had to obtain a pass at the port engineer's office so that we could receive a medical examination. But when w easked for passes at the office we were told by the woman in charge that she didn't know anything about jobs. But while we were waiting four white seamen came in, got passes and were taken on immediately after their examination. Later the woman told us that she was getting the men needed for the jobs from the Hoffman island training station. Although I showed my honorable discharge from that same training station, it didn't make any difference."

JAN 17 1941

ALL UNION MEN

All of the men are union seamen, who have been working on the WPA seamen's project since last summer. Cherry was one of such a group formerly employed by the Madison line, a subsidiary of the Eastern Steamship linse, who was discharged last August when the maritime service took over these ships converting them into oil burners. At that time all the Negro firemen and coal passers were discharged. The reason given was that the men could not be trained to handle oil burning vessels.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Order Blocks Civil Service Discrimination

Issues Instructions To Department Heads To Cut Out Old Practice

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Climaxing several years of intense effort on the part of Negro organizations and crusading individuals, President Roosevelt this week issued a new executive order banning discrimination in jobs in the Federal Civil Service, including U. S. Post Office workers.

SEP 19 1941

For the postal workers it means that no longer will the policy of declining to promote Negro clerks to foremanships and higher supervisory jobs be followed; no longer will railway mail lines be staffed by "white" clerks in charge, for F. D. R.'s order affects all branches of the civil service, as outlined in his executive order sent to every department head from the temporary White House at Hyde Park last Saturday night.

The most recent moves came to President Roosevelt's attention through the forceful presentation of the "New Orleans Post Office" and the "Charlotte Letter Carrier" cases, each of which created quite nationwide resentment over the policy of subordinate appointing officers who refused to appoint Negroes as clerks and carriers, as in New Orleans and Charlotte respectively.

In the latter case, during 1940, a sensational F. B. I. Civil Service-Post Office investigation took place, resulting in the indictment of Lieut. Col. Paul Youts, white, Charlotte postmaster and several other whites by a Federal grand jury at Asheville, N. C., Monday, August 25. Youts, at present, is free under a $2,000 bond for trial in October.

In the New Orleans case, Postmaster Joseph Ferguson refused to give seven Negroes opportunity to take non-competitive examinations for post office clerks, after they had served for three or more years as "laborers" after receiving such appointment from having taken the clerk-carrier examinations, two of these made 100 percent on the mail sorting tests.

35c-1941

GENERAL

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Ask U. S. Employ. Ser. Ban Discrimination

JAN 3 1941

New York—The United States Employment Service has been urged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to issue a statement to its offices throughout the country calling for abandonment of the practice of inquiring of prospective employers the racial identity of the workers desired, and to instruct these offices to send job applicants out to prospective jobs as they are available regardless of race, according to an announcement made here today by the association.

The Employment Service was urged to seek out Negro skilled workers and place their names on file precisely as such promotional work is done for war veterans. The national office of the Service, located in Washington also was asked to conduct an investigation into the practices followed by the various employment centers throughout the country under its jurisdiction.

JAN 3 1941

Announcement of the Association's action in the matter of wiping out discriminatory practices against Negro job applicants was made by the NAACP following a conference last week in Washington between Walter White, secretary of the association, and Ewan Clague, director of the United States Employment Service.

TENNESSEANS PROTEST JOB JIM CROWISM

the Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Telegrams and Letters Pour Into Washington Demanding Employment

JAN 31 1941

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—Scores of telegrams and letters, representing the united expression of Negro citizens in every walk of life here were sent this week to President Roosevelt and Congressional Representatives from Tennessee, protesting the discrimination against Negroes who have been denied jobs in defense industry.

According to Mrs. Daisy E Lampkin, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who is here conducting a membership drive, Negro citizens here are tired of being turned away from factory gates in defense industries located in an near Chattanooga, and want the President to take action in the matter.

Telegrams From All

The telegrams have come from organized church groups, ministers, union workers, women, and young people. One letter sent to Representative Estes Kefauver, whose home is located here was signed by 204 Negro citizens including 25 ministers. The letter said in part: "We are protesting against the discrimination being shown Negro workers in this area, in the national defense program. As our Representative, we are insisting that you use your office to bring pressure on the industries which have been awarded contracts in the national defense program.

"We have the list of these industries and we are sure that you have the same. If you want more information along this line, we shall be glad to send it. As a citizen of Chattanooga we are sure that you are well aware of the conditions confronting the Negro here. We shall be pleased to hear from you as to what steps you will take."

Signed by 204

The letter was signed by Dr. P. A. Stephens, president of the local N.A.A.C.P. branch and 203 other citizens, including 25 ministers.

A letter setting forth the facts were also sent to Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant in the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense.

A letter protesting the refusal of the Stillwell Construction company of Macon, Ga., to hire Negroes in construction work at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., was sent to Senator Kenneth McKellar and to Representative Kefauver, by members of Local 2216, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (A.F.L.), whose headquarters are in Chattanooga. The letter said the company 'absolutely refused to employ Negro workmen, 'even though we are union men affiliated with the American Federation of Labor."

The local branch of the N.A.A.C.P., will sponsor a huge mass meeting protesting defense discrimination on Sunday, when speakers will voice the demands of the citizens, and more letters and telegrams of protest will go out to Washington

---

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

N.A.A.C.P. at Washington Protests Scarcity of Negro Labor On Housing Project

JAN 25 1941

They Get .009 Per Cent of Pay Roll

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—While the Alley Dwelling authority was issuing a glowing report on its activities for the past year, the Washington branch of the N. A. A. C. P. was appearing before the assistant for Negro labor relations, Clarence Johnson, protesting against the small number of Negro workers employed in the construction of the Frederick Douglass dwellings in Southeast Washington.

Members of the delegation calling on Mr. Johnson of the housing authority included the Rev. Arthur D. Gray of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, Capt. Eugene Davidson of the New Negro Alliance, Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone, George Johnson and U. Simpson Tate of the N. A. A. C. P.

The statement presented outlined the situation which has existed at the project with slight variation since it was started in August, 1940.

In the week of December 4, 1940, there were 166 skilled workers employed, only three being Negroes, who received .009 per cent of the pay roll for skilled workers. Of 138 unskilled workers, 69 were colored and received 49.5 per cent of the pay roll for unskilled labor. The housing authority regulations indicate that of the funds for housing projects in the district 12 per cent of the pay roll for skilled labor and 84.6 per cent for unskilled should be allocated to Negro workers.

In calling attention to this noncompliance the statement continued, "The Frederick Douglass project is one of nine similar developments planned for the district—seven of which are for occupancy by Negroes.

"Unless some method is found by which colored citizens can be assured the specified proportion of employment on these projects, thousands of dollars of public money will be diverted from a group sorely in need of work, which meets proscription and discrimination on every side in its efforts to obtain a livelihood.

"Our investigations indicate that the aforementioned non-compliance with the regulations of the USHA is not due to any shortage on the part of Negro labor, skilled or unskilled, and it would appear therefore that the conditions set forth above should be rectified forthwith.

"We appeal to the USHA to secure compliance on the part of the general building contractor with the spirit and letter of the regulations prohibiting discrimination against Negroes in employment on the Frederick Douglass dwellings.

"We ask also that the USHA take similar steps with regard to other government-sponsored housing developments now under construction in the district and prevent the recurrence of such unjust and inequitable treatment of Negroes on future projects over which the USHA is required by law to exercise supervision."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Ban Discrimination Against Negro Skilled And Unskilled Workers

FEB 16 1941

Discrimination against Negro skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers on the extensive $281,000,000 defense housing program was banned this week through an executive order issued by John M Carmody, Federal Works Administrator.

Seeking to assure full participation of Negro workers in the employment phases of the huge construction program, Mr. Carmody, acting under the authority vested in the PWA administrator by Section 11 of the Act of October 14, 1940, issued the following regulation under which all contracts must be prosecuted:

"There shall be no discrimination by reason of race, creed, color or political affiliations in the employment of persons, qualified by training and experience, for work in the development of defense housing at the sites thereof."

At the same time, the FWA Administrator established machinery to implement the Agency's non-discrimination policy and to handle specific complaints growing out of possible violations. Copies of the regulation were sent to all contractors working on defense housing and the executive order was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, January 9.

Mr. A. J. Sarre, the director of personnel of the Federal Works Agency, and Mr. W. J. Trent, Jr., who is the Racial Relations officer in that office, will give special attention to the enforcement of the regulation against discrimination in work on the defense housing program.

The vast defense housing program will be carried out under the direction of several agencies in the FWA. This program includes the construction of an undetermined number of dwelling units to be erected with the $150,000,000 appropriation authorized in the Lanham Act. A number of these projects are now under construction.

Thirty-two defense housing projects, containing 13,035 dwelling units, will be constructed by the United States Housing Authority at an estimated cost of more than $45,000,000 in contracts.

Other phases of the total defense housing program are being carried out by the Federal Works Agency. One is the construction for in the War Department's share of the bulk of housing provided of the $100,000,000 housing allocation in the Second Supplemental Defense Appropriation Act. The Secretary of War recently allocated $45,700,000 of this sum to the FWA for housing projects for families of enlisted Army men and for married civilian Army personnel. Administrator Carmody designated the Public Buildings Administration as the agency to carry out this program. Under this designation the PBA will

---

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

No "Official" Barriers to Negroes' Employment

MAR 7 1941

Enough is enough. The time has come for plain speech. Certain employers still determined not to employ Negroes, finding themselves less and less able to say that whites will not work alongside Negroes as union after union extends its fellowship to the blacks, are making use of two other subterfuges.

One escape comes from the new system of seeking labor through the official employment agencies. In Kansas City, Missouri, William M. Kirby is head of the employment service and the office in Kansas City, Kansas is directed by John A. Woulf.

These two agencies, both of them official and therefore theoretically in the interest of all the people, are due to certify Negroes when demands for labor are given them just like they do other workers and will do so unless they fall under the influence of employers who must find another excuse for not employing Negroes when unions drop their discrimination.

By saying in advance that they "have no policy respecting Negro labor" employers try to build barriers against their being certified by the employment bureaus, because why send a man for a job which he will not be considered for? A vicious circle results.

For reasons that come down from past industrial practices Negroes are easily victimized by the new employment setup. When work was scarce and enrollment with the employment bureaus was the proper thing for the unemployed, they either sought common labor because it was the kind most easily secured by members of their persecuted race, or allowed themselves to be listed without their skills being made a part of the record. The setting is perfect for their being eliminated from defense industries through the workings of the employment bureaus. But that must not be. Old records showing no skills, must be discarded and new ones made which list not only what the applicant has done, but any preparation he has for receiving training. The national government wants a reservoir of labor.

MAR 7 1941

That national need must not be set aside to pander to the prejudices of employers who "have no policy respecting Negro labor." Over the work of the state employment bureaus presides Ewing Clague, director of the Bureau of Employment of Social Security. Mr. Clague has a great responsibility. He is the one man guarding the equality of employment. He is the guardian of a labor pass of Thermopylae. May he be as true to the ancient tradition.

The other subterfuge is also official. It is the schools which in this day of hurry and need have taken the place of the old time shops in the preparation of apprenticeships. Negroes take the position that it is better to be ready and not called for service than not be ready. Taking their tip from the prejudiced employer, the schools in some cases have been reluctant to train Negroes because they are not given employment. Though it is obvious that upon entry into war with Hitler, every man, woman and child will be needed, some school systems leave Negroes out, though the money for the training they are giving is supplied by the national government with the expressed direction added that they train everybody without discrimination. Such schools as discriminate even have the cheek to demand of Negroes that they first produce assurances by employers that they will be given work. Checkmate! Again the prejudiced employer has his way, a second victory for caste with the aid of official agencies which under the law should serve all the people alike.

In the case of the schools the law as interpreted by the U. S. supreme court in the Gaines case, already requires equality of training for Negroes. Yet white vocational schools are training trainees in three shifts, night and day while in the Negro vocational schools a course in "building maintenance" is typical of the training given them for building airships and manufacturing ammunition.

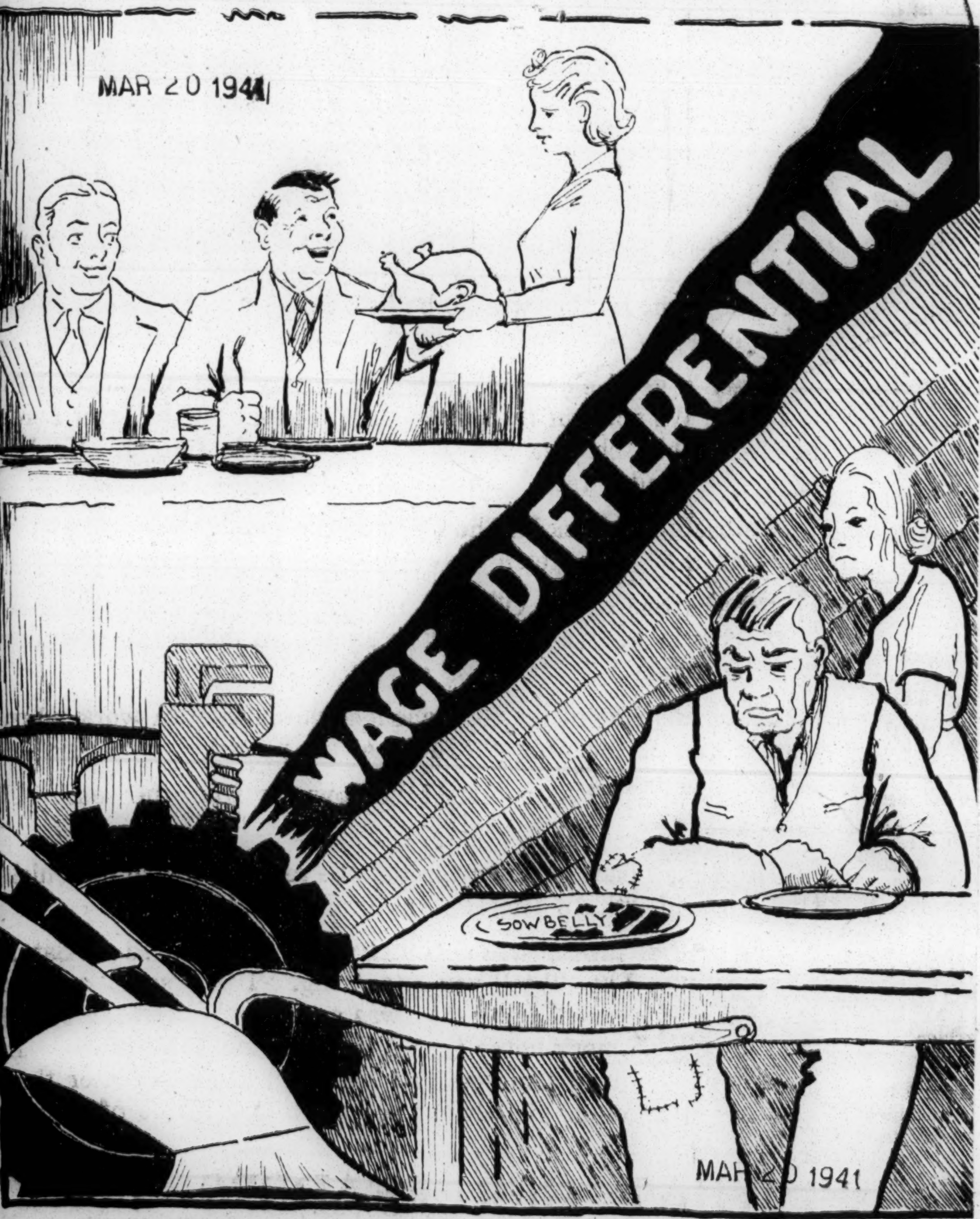
MAR 7 1941

This discrimination must stop. In the case of the employment bureaus it is strictly up to their supervisor in Washington to see that they function impartially. Of course that means that Negroes wherever treated unjustly must make charges.

35c-1941 GENERAL

Southern News
lmanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Blocks Us From The Promised Land



MAR 20 1941

MAR 20 1941

WHAT THE SOUTHERN WAGE DIFFERENTIAL MEANS

TO THE SOUTHERN WORKERS:

A lower standard of living.

TO THE NORTHERN WORKERS:

Low-wage competition which threatens their own wage standards.

Runaway shops.

TO THE SOUTHERN FARMERS:

An undeveloped home market for their products.

TO THE SOUTHERN MERCHANTS AND SMALL BUSINESS MEN:

Fewer and poorer customers.

TO THE SOUTH AS A WHOLE:

Continuing as a less prosperous section of the country.

TO OUR WHOLE NATION:

"The Nation's Economic Problem No. 1."

The denial of the promise of an American standard of living for all.

TO THE BIG MULES IN WALL STREET:

Super-profits wrung from the sweat of Southern workers.

A weapon to hold over the heads of Northern workers.

MAR 20 1941

Usurping power over the majority of the American people by a policy of "divide and rule."

C

E

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Government Hires 3,000, But Ignores Race, Say NNC

35 c

APR 5 - 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., Apr. 3—According to Civil Service records, the Federal Government took on 3,000 new workers last month, but despite the fact that 65 out of every 100 Negroes on WPA were fired during the past year, Negroes have been barred from these jobs, the National Negro Congress declared in a statement issued today.

APR 5 1941

The statement was contained in a "call" sent out this week by the Congress to organizations in Washington and Baltimore, urging them to send delegates to a job conference to be held in Baltimore at the Elks Auditorium, McMechen street, and Madison avenue, Sunday, April 27. The conference will be held in connection with the Congress's campaign to open up 7,000 jobs for Negroes at the Glenn L. Martin aircraft plant at Middle River. Maryland.

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Black Men's Lives The Price Of "Jobs For Whites Only"

35-C

MAR 1 4 1941

Cost what it may, Negroes must win their way into airplane manufacture. This industry, one of the fast growing ones in commerce and one of the necessary ones for defense, is almost unanimous in refusing them employment. Even on the west coast where the population includes all the races and tolerance should be the habit, Negroes for all their traditional loyalty have a hard time getting work on the flying ships. Mr. Gott—the German spelling of God—speaking for one of the companies, calmly stated that his company has no intention of sharing the work with Negroes. No reason, no excuse!

One effect of airplane manufacturers' refusal to share with Negroes work which is essential to defense, is that there is a larger proportion of them left, who by the rules will be put into the armed forces. Correspondingly, the more jobs are limited to whites, the less they will be sent into the army and navy by the draft boards. Blacks will make up the deficiency; the lives of black men will be the price of "jobs for whites only."

MAR 1 4 1941

This is an outrage—wrong if these were peace times, and damnably wrong when the nation needs whole-souled cooperation of everybody! We repeat, cost what it may these airplane manufacturers must be made to share the work with Negroes!

Denial of work to any man cuts deeper than even the denial of his political rights. The latter condemns him to a partial citizenship from which he can recover. Work is the door to food and shelter, without which he dies. If Negroes are forced to drive home their demand for a share of defense work, the arch villain to be flayed is the maker of the flying machine. He hires the whole list of nationalities who more or less are tied in with Nazism in their homeland, yet refuses Negroes whom he knows have only American attitudes and connection.

Realizing that at the first word of definite charge against Negroes alleging lack of mentality or dexterity, they would be met with facts, airplane manufacturers take refuge in statements like that of Mr. Gott—reminiscent of the Kaiser's "Me und Gott" of pre-World war days.

Before Congress, before the President and then before the American people, Negroes should make their appeal for their rightful share of work in their defense industry. Labor dares to strike even in these hours when it is unjustly treated. Negroes too have a right to justice. It is for them to make their demand and support it.

MAR 1 4 1941

Negroes have been holding meetings locally, to make clear their position. Let's begin now to think what we shall do if our appeal to reason continues to be met with refusal. Between making an effort on our own behalf, even if it fails, and a supine acceptance of starvation on Mr. Gott's terms, there is but one choice. Cost what it may, Negroes must not accept an "Asiatic exclusion act" in employment.

A cat hypnotizes a bird and eats it. Race prejudice is the hypnotist which is making America an easy victim for Hitler to swallow. It is the literal truth that the Negro by his fight to share in America's defense, both in industry and in arms, is saving the country from the quagmire into which selfish little men were leading it.

K. C. Call

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Dixie Solons Block Plan To Mix Employment Center; Negroes and Whites Object

Thinks Racial Scheme Will Wreck Any Semblance of Harmony

MAY 2 4 1941

Says Its A Crime For Negroes To Interview Whites

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—The unreconstructed South reared its head and roared defiance at progress Saturday in a three-hour stormy session of the subcommittee of the house appropriations committee, when Rep. Rivers, Democrat of Charleston, S. C., declared he was head of a block of southern congressman determined to block the reorganization plan of the District Employment center and to fight it to the bitter end.

"I represent one of the largest Negro sections in the country," he said, "We know that you can't mix the races without causing trouble. Neither Negroes nor white people want it," he said discussing the proposed plan.

"I'm willing to do anything to keep harmony in the defense program," he said, "but I think this radical scheme will wreck any semblance of harmony in our federal employment offices.

The contemplated plan he referred to was the one under consideration by Martin F. Carpenter, chief of the employment service of the Social Security board and follows the recommendations of a survey made to determine the true condition existing in the employment center here.

Under the present setup, there is a segregated section for Negroes, which in the past has kept Negroes out of worth while jobs, relegating them to the lowest types of domestic work and unskilled labor.

Negroes interviewed Negroes and whites interviewed whites. Mr. Carpenter has suggested that the system be junked for the good of the service and an integration of workers based entirely on merit be subsituted.

MAY 2 4 1941

When this became known, there was circulated one of the most vicious circulars yet seen in the departments, calling attention to the fact that "Negroes would be interviewing white people" which according to the local attitude is a crime comparable with the most hideous offenses.

This was taken to the southern congressman, who immediately arose in arms against it, as a slanderous thing to white supremacy.

Declaring the plan as ospoused by Mr. Carpenter, is "foreign to the social pattern of the district," opposition has arisen in several quarters. The most terrible thing they could point out in the proposed plan was that whites and Negroes would work side by side in the employment offices, and the most terrible thing of all was that Negro interviewerers would handle white applicants.

So worked up over the plan are the oponents, they are calling it a scheme of "wild-eyed radicals" and they went so far as to score Administrator Paul V. McNutt for not objecting to the plan.

Rep. Butler D. Hare, also of South Carolina, upon whose recommendation officials of the district employment center were formally called to testify before the committee declared

"We have heard so many reports and rumors concerning this proposed plan that we feel the committee should arrive at the facts. The manner in which funds appropriated to any department are to be used should be known to the committee before the appropriation is approved.

"Friction in the District Employment service is said to have existed since distribution to staff officials three weeks ago, of a lengthy draft of a proposed administrative changes eliminating race segregation of both employes and applicants at the District employment offices."

No mention has been made in the committee of the lengthy canard circulated by disgruntled perdensing of the office and the tions, their jobs would be lost nor elimination of duplicating funcof the manner in which they made their approach to the subject. It was this particular petiwhich roused the action of the tion, sent in the form of a letter, which roused the action of the southern contingent, which declares that the entire city of Washington, including the government, condones and follows a jim-crow segregation pattern in every walk of life.

35c-1941

GENERAL

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

"White Only"

JAN 1 1 1941

The War Industry Czars Want Their Workers "Native, Reliable, Intelligent." But They Don't Want Them Black. Jim Crow As Personnel Manager. Mr. Hillman's Sorry Silence.

By JAMES MORISON
(Reprinted from New Masses)

ARE you native, white, reliable. and intelligent?

If you are, there may be a job for you in the war industries. If you are native, black, reliable, and intelligent, there is none. National policy has been established: the great corporations which are receiving billions of dollars in orders for war in "defense of democracy" have adopted Jim Crow as their own.

Proof? Millions of Negro workers are unemployed, Millions are trying to find work in plants now producing aircraft, machine tools, motors, steel, ships—building cantonments, roads, making uniforms.

With few unimportant exceptions, the sign is out: "WHITE ONLY."

In Henry R. Luce's weekly magazine Time, issue of November 25, a full page advertisement of the United Gas Pipe Line Co., invited industrialists to build new plants in the gulf states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Florida. Labor, said the ad, was available.... "native, white, reliable, intelligent." The inference is plain that Negro labor is unreliable and unintelligent. The National Urban League, which acts as an agency for obtaining jobs for Negroes, protested to Time, to United Gas Pipe, to the National Association of Manufacturers, and to the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Only the Chamber of Commerce replied. It evasively declared that it could not discuss the policy of a member organization.

In 1930, 5,503,535 Negroes above the age of ten were rated as employable by the federal census. Of these, 2,369,430 lived in the five gulf states. No detailed figures are available in the 194C census, but it is likely that now more than 2,500,000 Negroes live in the area in which United Gas Pipe monopolizes the sale of natural gas.

NATIONAL JIM CROW

Jim Crow policy is not sectional in scope. Giant industries of the North which are receiving war order largesse from the administration deny jobs to Negroes in East, North, and West as well as South. No war industry jobs are open to Negroes in New York City, according to organizations which are seeking to defend the Negroes' right to work. In New York City the case load of Negroes on relief has risen from 21 per cent in 1937 to 25 per cent in 1940—despite a drop in the number of white workers on relief. No Negro works in the aircraft, aircraft equipment, ship-building, chemical, munitions, machine tool, motor, steel and iron and other war industries of the East unless he accepts heavy, unskilled, stevedore jobs. There has been no decrease in Negro unemployment in the Pittsburgh area, although the steel mills are working at 98 per cent of capacity. Except where CIO contracts provide against discrimination in motors and aircraft—as at Vultee—very few jobs are open to Negroes in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle.

In the South this policy is a considered one of segregation for political purposes. Poll tax politicians occupy important posts in Washington. Many are committee chairmen in Congress or close advisers to the President. Their power rests upon the white upper and middle class of the South who can pay the poll tax. There is no essential difference between Hitlerism and Jim Crow, in this respect. To give jobs to Southern Negroes would be to give them money for their poll tax. And the mood of the Negro today is not one of friendliness toward his political and economic white oppressors.

He would vote the poll tax boys out—if he could.

PRACTICES OF DISCRIMINATION

But in the North this is not the case. The Negro votes in the North. Why, then, the national opposition to employing Negroes? Why are vocational courses operated by industries closed to Negroes? Why does the New York State Employment Service advertise for 300 carpenters to work on army cantonments—"white only"? Why does the same bureau ask for army cooks—"white only?" Why are Negro students who pay for their own technical education in private schools left standing on street corners, jobless? Why are appeals of the National Urban League to the Sperry Gyroscope Co. left unanswered?

The Negro today is a powerful force for democracy in America. To educate him, to give him job security, to place him on a plane of equality in skilled jobs would be to liberate in part his pent-up desires for equal treatment. Therefore, as a considered, planned program for reaction, the industrial overlords of the administration's war program have rejected Negro participation. Negroes cannot fly in the army or navy. They can do only menial work. They cannot be dentists, doctors, nurses. They cannot advance toward an officers' commission, unless they belong to the chosen few who are given promotion in order to obscure the vicious discrimination practiced against the many.

This policy of military Jim Crow is official, maintained by President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Stimson. Now the line is being re-drawn between black and white in civilian labor. All the progress made by Negroes in the last quarter of a century is thus to be wiped out by the war economy and under the pressure of war hysteria.

JAN 1 1 1941

The role played by Sidney Hillman in this situation is a sorry one. In the office of the Labor Division of the National Defense Advisory Commission is Robert C. Weaver, in charge of Negro labor. Mr. Weaver has succeeded in obtaining certain minute concessions.

In Maryland, Arkansas, and Virginia, where by means of state control of jobs Negro construction workers were barred from work on army cantonments, Mr. Weaver has been able to induce AFL building trades unions to permit the use of Negro carpenters. For the record, this looks like a victory against Jim Crow. But Mr. Hillman has been as silent as death about the almost universal discrimination against Negroes.

Organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, and the National Negro Congress have been taking the lead in fighting this essential battle for democracy. Of the political parties, only the Communists have demanded equal job opportunity for Negroes, not only in war industries but where ever work is available, in consistent application of a program of resisting all forms of discrimination. Among trade unions, only the progressive majority of the CIO has established a policy of fighting against discrimination because of color, creed, or political belief.

War is a signal for the oppression of all minorities, the splitting of the American people into antagonistic groups, over which the fascist sympathizers hope to ride to power. The only antitoxin for this poison in the American body politic is a fearless fight for jobs. In a true democracy every man must have an equal right to work.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

McNutt Urges Job Equality For Negroes

MAR 3 1941

Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt told a charter day audience at Howard University Saturday night that he was working for equal job opportunities for Negroes in the defense program.

"Going back to 1929 as the last period of full employment, most Negroes had jobs at that time, but they were among the last to come into industry and they were mostly in unskilled labor," McNutt declared in a speech at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, on the Howard campus.

MAR 3 1941

"We hope to do better this time. With the superior facilities of the educational agencies of the (United States) Employment Service, we should do better."

McNutt added: "I, in my capacity of a public official, and you, in your capacity of leaders of public opinion, cannot afford to slacken our efforts for equal job opportunities, for the welfare of the Nation will demand it.

"If we proceed much farther on the road to total defense, the brains and brawn of every citizen will be needed. No large groups can be left out."

McNutt complimented Dr. Mordecai Johnson, whose fifteenth anniversary as president of Howard was celebrated at yesterday's exercises, together with the seventy-fourth anniversary of the university's founding.

"I heartily join you in paying tribute to Dr. Johnson as a genuine leader," he said. Of the university, he said "this well-rounded, well-built and well-staffed university is a symbol of the national concern for intelligent Negro leadership."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Artisans Tell Roosevelt Conspiracy Keeping Negroes Out Of Jobs

FEB 20 1941

(Special to The Tribune)

HAMPTON, Va.—In a strong resolution to President Roosevelt, the fifteenth annual Hampton Builders Conference denounced "the action of numerous firms holding government contracts and certain organized labor groups" in barring skilled Negro workers from employment.

Meeting last week, February 10-12, the 200 builders, contractors, architects, engineers, and labor unionists, discussed every phase of building for defense; endorsed the Hampton Conference on the Participation of the Negro in National Defense, and questioned government officials on the policies of their respective departments.

In a personal letter to the assembled delegates, John M. Carmody, administrator of the Federal Works Agency announced for the first time the opening of an immediate inquiry into discrimination against Negroes on national defense housing projects in the Hampton Roads area.

OPM Represented

The Office of Production Management, through Emmer Lancaster of the Department of Commerce, next told the delegates of its sympathetic attitude toward Negro contractors and its intention to "farm out" defense contracts to small business men and subcontractors.

Charles F. Palmer, coordinator of all National Defense housing, dispatched his executive assistant, Carl H. Monsees, to the conference by plane Wednesday morning to explain to the assembled builders, architects, contractors, and labor unionists the Coordinator's stand. Mr. Monsees agreed that the "discriminatory clauses" released by Carmody was a statement of policy without enforcement provisions, but was emphatic that "you can have faith in Mr. Carmody, for there's isn't a fairer administrator in Washington."

FEB 20 1941

This over, the delegates, who came from 20 states, listened to George Zuidema, sole hiring agent for all contractors engaged in construction work at Fort Eustis, Virginia, as he attempted to answer the personal charges made on his discriminatory practices against skilled Negroes.

Explanation Denounced

It was because of dissatisfaction with Zuidema's "explanation" that "you can't change a custom overnight", that the conference drew up its 580-word resolution and dispatched it to President Roosevelt and 19 other key government officials denouncing discriminatory practices, submitting specific proof, and asking for immediate action.

The resolution, in part, read:

"We wish to go on record as denouncing the action of numerous firms holding Government contracts and certain organized labor groups in their subtle and illegal collusion for the purpose of evading Government "racial discriminatory" clauses in order to exclude skilled Negro workers from a full participation in National Defense construction work.

"Evidence has been presented to this body, proving without question that skilled Negro workers are barred from skilled labor in the construction of barracks that the same workers may be called upon to occupy in the service of their country.

Ft. Eustis Example

"We point out specifically the Fort Eustis project, with 2800 Negroes out of 5800 workmen, yet with not a single Negro carpenter employed — though approximately 2000 white ones have been given employment. It is clearly evident on this project, as on others, that skilled Negro workmen are shunted into unskilled occupations while skilled labor, by collusion of contractors and labor unions, is restricted to white workers.

"We state as our conviction that, in these crucial days, Negroes must be allowed to work on a democratic basis if they are to be expected to fight for Democracy. We deny that a sacrifice of democratic principles in defense construction must be made in the interest of efficiency.

"We consider that the exclusion of Negro workmen from certain skilled defense occupations for which they possess full qualifications constitutes a flagrant violation of the spirit of democracy We point out that the employment of skilled Negroes as helpers to skilled white mechanics, but with wages approximating those of laborers, amounts to racial discrimination—in direct violation of Government ruling. We state that in certain sections there is a conspiracy between government employment agencies, contractors' hiring agents and certain labor unions, aiming to restrict skilled employment to white workers."

FEB 20 1941

Praise Re-Training

The National Defense program of vocational educational training for Negroes was praised in a resolution passed at the close of the meeting.

Organized in 1923, this meeting of the Hampton Builders' Conference proved to be the most outstanding in its history. Elected president of the National Builders' Association was Walter H. Aiken, Atlanta, Ga., contractor. It was announced that next year's conference will be held in the Municipal Auditorium, Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean addressed the Conference at a banquet on Monday evening and introduced H. Whittemore Brown, who organized the Conference in 1923.

FEB 20 1941

Welcomed by Lanier

The builders were welcomed by Dean R. O'Hara Lanier, who stressed the importance of Negro builders studying, at this time, their relationship with the Federal Government, with union organizations, with big contractors, and with schools as their source of supply for skilled labor.

Lester B. Granger, assistant executive of the National Urban League, who made the principal address at the Monday meeting, charged that FWA Administrator Carmody's recent pronouncement against discrimination was nothing more than a "pious wish" and that the statement would continue to be ineffectve as long as Mr. Carmody refused to implement it by adding an enforcement clause to put teeth into the law.

L. Carleton Crump, of the Virginia Department of Labor, announced that he had been sent to the Conference by the Virginia Commissioner, "who is vitally interested in this problem," and said that he would carry back the thoughts of the meeting to his chief in Richmond.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Cuckoo Logic In the N. Y. Times

MAR 10 1941

- Can anyone imagine a slave-owner declaring that he "gives the slave work" and should therefore be viewed as a benefactor?

Everyone can see that the slave-owner robs the slave of the latter's products.

But the New York Times can't see it—or, more likely, pretends it can't see it. So that the "Times" considers it "nonsense" when Mr. Morris U. Schappes, one of the City College instructors before the Rapp-Coudert Committee, defines a capitalist as one who "exploits labor."

(35c)

Exploitation, is it, asks the "Times" when the employer "provides work"? This is the typical upside-down madness of capitalist economics. It is not the workers whose labor supports the employer, but the employer who "supports" the workers! It is not the salesgirls, apparently, who provide "Babs" Hutton with her loot, but it is "Babs" Hutton who graciously allows the girls to work for her. She "makes work" for them!

In the same way, the Old Man of the Sea who rode his victim's back could boast that he "made work"; and the parasite who slobbers in gluttony and becomes the most useful member of society because he allows the working masses to provide him with luxury while they starve to death.

The fact is that the capitalist class robs the working masses of unpaid labor (profits, rent, interest). It "permits" men to labor only when such labor produces private profits. Otherwise, the community can go to hell—no profits, then no employment. It is the profits of a few, rather than the needs of the community which determine economic life. The benefits of social labor are stolen by the capitalist few.

MAR 10 1941

But despite all the jugglery of the "Times," the anarchy of capitalism leads the people sooner or later to see the true state of affairs.

Then the people act to change it

35c-1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Black Men's Lives the Price of "Jobs for Whites Only"

MAR 7 1941

Cost what it may, Negroes must win their way into airplane manufacture. This industry, one of the fast growing ones in commerce and one of the necessary ones for defense, is almost unanimous in refusing them employment. Even on the west coast where the population includes all the races and tolerance should be the habit, Negroes for all their traditional loyalty have a hard time getting work on the flying ships. A Mr. Gott—the German spelling of god—speaking for one of the companies, calmly stated that his company has no intention of sharing the work with Negroes. No reason, no excuse!

MAR 7 1941

One effect of airplane manufacturers' refusal to share with Negroes work which is essential to defense, is that there is a larger proportion of them left, who by the rules will be put into the armed forces. Correspondingly the more jobs are limited to whites, the less they will be sent into the army and navy by the draft boards. Blacks will make up the deficiency; the lives of black men will be the price of "jobs for whites only."

This is an outrage—wrong if these were peace times, and damnably wrong when the nation needs whole-souled cooperation of everybody! We repeat, cost what it may these airplane manufacturers must be made to share the work with Negroes!

Denial of work to any man cuts deeper than even the denial of his political rights. The latter condemns him to a partial citizenship from which he can recover. Work is the door to food and shelter, without which he dies. If Negroes are forced to drive home their demand for a share of defense work, the arch villain to be flayed is the maker of the flying machine. He hires the whole list of nationalities who more or less are tied in with Nazism in their homeland, yet refuses Negroes whom he knows have only American attitudes and connection.

MAR 7 1941

Realizing that at the first word of definite charge against Negroes alleging lack of mentality or dexterity, they would be met with facts, airplane manufacturers take refuge in statements like that of Mr. Gott—reminiscent of the Kaiser's "Me und Gott" of pre-World war days.

Before Congress, before the President, and then before the American people, Negroes should make their appeal for their rightful share of work in this defense industry. Labor dares to strike even in these hours when it is unjustly treated. Negroes too have a right to justice. It is for them to make their demand and support it.

Negroes have been holding meetings locally, to make clear their position. Let's begin now to think what we shall do if our appeal to reason continues to be met with refusal. Between making an effort on our own behalf, even if it fails, and a supine acceptance of starvation on Mr. Gott's terms, there is but one choice. Cost what it may, Negroes must not accept an "Asiatic exclusion act" in employment.

A cat hypnotizes a bird and eats it. Race prejudice is the hypnotist which is making America an easy victim for Hitler to swallow. It is the literal truth that the Negro by his fight to share in America's defense, both in industry and in arms, is saving the country from the quagmire into which selfish little men were leading it.

GENERAL

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

NEGROES MUST RECEIVE SHARE

Amount of Wages Used As Yardstick to Determine Fairness

MAR 29 1941

WASHINGTON — Non-discrimination in employment of construction workers in defense housing was strengthened as John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator, signed an order under which payment of a proper proportion of monthly payrolls to Negro skilled and unskilled workers will be first hand evidence of non-discrimination.

MAR 29 1941

The proportion will be based on the latest United States occupational census and on other data showing the relative number of Negro construction workers available in a particular community.

Under Mr. Carmody's order, each agency engaged in defense housing with funds under the control of the Federal Works Agency will be required to submit to the building contractor the proportion figures. The contractor will keep records by race of all wages paid to skilled and unskilled labor on the construction project.

The new order specifies that contracting officers:

(1) Submit to each contractor engaged in constructing any such defense housing, the percentage of Negro skilled and unskilled labor in the locality of the project, as reflected by the Federal census and other relevant data.

(2) Require each contractor engaged in constructing any such defense housing to indicate by notation (W for Non-Negro, N for Negro) on payroll forms required to be submitted to the Government, the race of each laborer, skilled or unskilled, listed on such payroll forms; and

MAR 29 1941

(3) Ascertain and report to the Director of the Division of Defense Housing in the Federal Works Agency, at the end of each 4-week period of such construction, the respective amounts paid by each such contractor during such period as wages, for work in the development of defense housing at the sites thereof to (i) Non-Negro skilled labor (irrespective of individual trades); (ii) Negro skilled labor (irrespective of individual trades); (iii) Non-Negro unskilled labor; and (iv) Negro unskilled labor.

Washington, D. C. Post
March 3, 1941

McNutt Urges Job Equality For Negroes

Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt told a charter day audience at Howard University Saturday night that he was working for equal job opportunities for Negroes in the defense program.

"Going back to 1929 as the last period of full employment, most Negroes had jobs at that time, but they were among the last to come into industry and they were mostly in unskilled labor." McNutt declared in a speech at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, on the Howard campus.

"We hope to do better this time. With the superior facilities of the educational agencies of the (United States) Employment Service, we should do better."

McNutt added: "I, in my capacity of a public official, and you, in your capacity of leaders of public opinion, cannot afford to slacken our efforts for equal job opportunities, for the welfare of the Nation will demand it.

"If we proceed much farther on the road to total defense, the brains and brawn of every citizen will be needed. No large groups can be left out."

McNutt complimented Dr. Mordecai Johnson, whose fifteenth anniversary as president of Howard was celebrated at yesterday's exercises, together with the seventy-fourth anniversary of the university's founding.

"I heartily join you in paying tribute to Dr. Johnson as a genuine leader," he said. Of the university, he said "this well-rounded, well-built and well-staffed university is a symbol of the national concern for intelligent Negro leadership."

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

FIGHT AGAINST SOUTH'S WAGE DIFFERENTIAL ON

MAR 20 1941

Coal Miners Leading Drive To Get Equal Pay; Farmers Would Profit

MAR 20 1941

Southern coal miners must be paid as much as Northern coal miners for the same work, is one of the demands that the United Mine Workers of America, led by John L. Lewis, is making on the soft coal operators. The present contracts covering the industry for two years expire at midnight, March 31.

Just as important as armaments, Lewis told the joint wage conference, is "the future welfare of the American people which demands wage levels that will insure reasonably satisfactory consumer purchasing power."

The increase, said Lewis, "can be met out of profits."

A survey of rank and file sentiment among Jefferson County (Birmingham) coal miners this week showed that they unanimously favor doing away with the wage differential between North and South, as a first step in breaking down all income discrimination against the Southern people.

The wage differential also applies to Birmingham steel workers, though production costs are low here, a miner in a captive coal mine told The Southern News Almanac.

MAR 20 1941

NO EXCUSE

"There is no excuse," said this worker, "for the $1.40 per shift differential in steel between here and the North. In 16 hours the coal can be brought out, the coke made, the ore brought from the mine and the charge in the furnace. They cannot do this anywhere else."

Several coal miners told The News Almanac they believed that discrimination against Negro workers, giving the employers a reserve of underpaid labor with which to undermine the general wage standards, was the real reason that Southern workers have always gotten less pay.

The CIO policy of organizing all the workers in an industry without race or other discriminations, in which the United Mine Workers pioneered, has laid the basis for a successful fight now to eliminate pay discriminations against the Southern working man, these miners believe.

COSTS NOT LOWER

Official government figures show that the old myth of a lower cost of living in the South has been completely exploded. The real meaning of the wage differential is a lower standard of living, not only for wage workers, but for all the people of the South.

A survey called "Inter-City Differences in the Cost of Living," made by the WPA a few years ago shows that the difference in cost of living between Birmingham, Ala., and Columbus, Ohio, is less than one cent on the dollar and that to live in Atlanta is a little bit more expensive than to live in Buffalo, N. Y., or Denver, Colo.

Food which costs 93.6 cents in Birmingham costs three-tenths of one cent more in Pittsburgh.

The only item in living costs which is substantially cheaper in Southern cities than in Northern cities is housing, according to the WPA survey. But figures published recently by the Department of Labor show that house rents for low income families have gone up more rapidly in Birmingham in recent years than in any other city in the country.

The report of the National Emergency Council on "Economic Conditions of the South," shows the average annual wage in industry in the South is $865. In the rest of the nation it is $1,219.

FARMERS LOSE

The Southern farmer is robbed of his best and most convenient market, the Southern workers, suffers too. "Even in 'prosperous' 1929 Southern farm people received an average gross income of only $186 a year as compared with $528 for farmers elsewhere."

The differential in income means a differential in education. "In 1936 the Southern states spent about half the average for the country as a whole."

MAR 20 1941

The differential in income means poorer housing. "There are 2 1-2 million below standard houses" in the South, says the NEC report.

"In the South, where family incomes are exceptionally low, the sickness and death rates are unusually high," according to this official survey. "Wage differentials become in fact differentials in health and life."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Senator Capper to Read Consolidated Stand Into Record

35C

MAY 9 - 1941

E. N. Gott of California Denies That He Told N.A.A.C.P. He Did Not Think Whites and Negroes Can Work Together

MAY 9 - 1941

SAN DIEGO, Cal.—Sworn evidence of discrimination in the Consolidated Aircraft corporation here will be read into the Congressional Record by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas, one of the backers of Senate Resolution 75, which proposes investigation of discrimination in the National Defense program.

An affidavit revealing that Edgar N. Gott, publicity director and vice-president of the corporation, told officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the company "would not employ Negroes in skilled and semi-skilled jobs; that he did not believe that white skilled workers would work with Negroes in his plant, and that, as a private corporation, they hired whom they pleased, and the United States government could not make them do otherwise," was sent to Senator Capper, Wednesday, April 30, by the N.A.A.C.P., after Gott protested when an article from the New York *Post* by Walter White, N.A.C.P. secretary, quoting the statements was read into the record.

Gott complained it was untrue that he had made the statements which show his company's racially biased policy.

He said, "We have in the past employed Negroes in positions which they, as individuals, were capable of filling, and will continue to do so."

MAY 9 - 1941

The N.A.A.C.P. learned last week what positions the aircraft company considers Negroes capable of filling. There are nine Negroes employed there as lavatory janitors, while the total of all employes is about 16,000.

Additional evidence of the company's anti-Negro attitude is the experience of William A. Dickinson Jr., Bakersfield, Cal. Employment was offered by Consolidated to all graduates of the Bakersfield Junior college who had completed a course in aircraft metal work. Mr. Dickinson completed his course with a straight 'B' average. Six of his fellow students were given employment by Consolidated. Dickinson was curtly informed by Consolidated that "No Negroes accepted."

MAY 9 - 1941

35c-1941

GENERAL

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Will the New Assistant Secretary of Labor Continue His Jim Crow Policy Toward Negoes?

President Roosevelt's appointment of Dan W. Tracy, president of the International Electrical Workers Union (A. F. of L.) as Assistant Secretary of Labor, is not encouraging to or welcomed by skilled Negro workers.

JUL 19 1941

35c

Through manipulations and discrimination in its membership, the International Electrical Workers Union has barred Negroes from following their trade as electricians throughout America. The union does not only bar race workers from membership but manipulates and controls city and state affairs to the extent that it is impossible for Negroes to secure license to follow their trade. It matters not how efficient they are or what school they finished.

Here at Houston where Mr. Tracy formerly lived and worked as an electrician, Negroes are not permitted to even work among their own, unless the permit is issued to some white electrician who is not any more competent than the Negro electrician.

About two years ago at Houston, an experienced Negro electrician applied for license and was informed he had to take an examination. When he went to take the examinaton, this man was told by one of the examiners that he could not pass. The Negro insisted that he be given a chance. He took the examination but lacked one point of passing. The Examiner in charge was a member of the Electrical Workers Union.

There is no reason why a Negro electrician should not be permitted to follow his work just as lawyers, doctors, teachers or others engaged in the professions or trades.

It is un-American and un-Democratic for any group to deny citizens their right to work and to enjoy Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness as provided in the Preamble of our Constitution.

JUL 19 1941

Let us hope that Mr. Tracy was impressed with this act when he took the solemn oath of office to faithfully perform his duty in giving justice to all without regard to race, creed, color, labor union or political affiliation.

Let us hope that Mr. Tracy, in his position as an official of the government, and as a labor union leader, will use his influence to remove all discriminatory barriers and practices that prohibit citizens from full participation in our National Defense program.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

COLORED WORKERS CAN BE PLACED

The colored worker can be placed. He can be placed in any job for which he is qualified by training and experien

During the present great demand for workers for the national defense program, the public employment service has an excellent opportunity to integrate the the colored worker into American industry.

JUL 19 1941

An employer speeding production for the protection of democracy cannot consistently cry "Labor shortage!" when he refuses to employ available qualified colored workers. A public employment office cannot consistently recommend training courses to meet such a shortage when it has qualified colored workers in its files.

35c

The responsibilities of the public employment service are clear. Let the entire supply of American labor be used regardless of race, creed, or color. Bring together employers and workers on the basis of ability alone—eliminate the barriers of misunderstanding.

This is our job—to strengthen and to protect from within the ideals of American democracy.

WILLIAM H. WILKINSON,
Manager, Jamaica Office, New York State
Employment Service, in
Employment Security Review, June, 1941.

JUL 19 1941

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
July 19, 1941

Racial Charges Heard By Congressional Units

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP) — Charges of racial discrimination by private employers and by the nation's armed services were put before congressional committees today by separate sources.

John T. Jones, legislative representative of the CIO and director of labor's Non-Partisan League, filed with a House judiciary subcommittee a statement urging legislation to forbid racial discrimination in employment.

Discrimination Claimed

He contended that a "handful of rich and powerful corporations" were discriminating against Negro workers and added:

"The use of one racial group against another, one national group against another is an old story to the labor movement. It is the ancient maxim of divide and rule—divide and exploit."

Noel Sargent, secretary of the National Association of Manufacturers, testifying before a House committee studying migration of defense workers, discussed charges of discrimination and said "the government has sought to concentrate the heat engendered in this issue on industry."

Both Might Change

"The fact is," he told the committee, "that both the government as well as organized labor might well put their own houses in order.

"Is it not fair to ask the government if consideration is being given to the existence of official discrimination in the Army policy that Negroes shall be enrolled and trained in segregated units; or that Negroes have consistently been denied opportunity for Army aviation training, and that the first modification of this latter policy was announcement of a 'segregated' training field to be established at Tuskegee Institute?"

Sargent testified that his association had advised members that "there should be no arbitrary prejudices in employment" and contended that prejudices in an "overwhelming proportion" of cases arose with fellow workers rather than management.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl

Machinery To Handle Violations Of President's Job Order Established

Complaints to Cover Four Major Types of Discrimination

35 c

White Pressure Groups To Be Studied

NEW YORK.—(AN[illegible]—That greasing operations on machinery intended to handle expected complaints of violation of President Roosevelt's executive order barring racial discrimination in employment policies and practices of holders of defense contracts, have been quietly going on for several weeks was officially confirmed here early last week at the district office of the bureau of employment security, Federal Security agency. This information was disclosed exclusively to the ANP.

Within three days after the issue of the order on June 25, and in spite of the delay in naming the Committee on Fair Employment Practice, Office of Production Management, charged with administering the order, instructions were forwarded to all regional offices of the United States Employment Service covering methods to be used to give effectiveness to the announced policy of the administration.

In addition to these instructions it was learned an in-service training course for employees of the New Y[illegible]k State Employment service, c[illegible]ating agency of the USES, wi[illegible] be instituted in a week or two designed to "adjust the thinking" of the workers and give "implementation" and meaning to the order to the end that its terms and intentions may be successfully carried out.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PROCEDURE SHOWS RACE APPLICANTS GIVEN RUN-AROUND

WASHINGTON, July 31 (ANP)—While the government has made provisions for the stoppage of discrimination against Negroes in its defense program and is setting up committees to see what can be done the wrongs done Negroes in its own departments is shown by the copies of telegrams and correspondence on several cases which have come to light since June 1.

Miss Marguerite [illegible]dams of Washington, D. C., [illegible] she was notified of an appointment for three months as tabulator in the Social Sec[illegible] department, Baltimore. She reported for an interview but says her interviewer assumed a nasty attitude and almost refused to talk with her. He asked, she says, why she didn't stay in Washington since she was now employed at the census department. She explained that she had discussed the possibility of an appointment in Baltimore and had received permission from her present employer to investigate such. He then told her, she states in her complaint, to wait in the back of the room for a while. Later he told another man to talk with her. This second person asked Miss Adams if she would acept an appointment for one month. She told him she would. He then said he was sure the job would last two weeks. Miss Adams informed him that her notice of appointment had stated that the job would last at least three months, whereby he assured her that it would last only two weeks.

Miss Lucille L. Waters of Washington received the following wire:

"You have been certified for temporary appointment not exceeding three months as Junior clerk typist at $1440 per annum, this service, Washington. If interested call for personal interview at 308 Hutchings building, Tenth and D streets, northwest. Immigration and Naturalization service."

Miss Waters declares she reported for the personal interview at the Immigration and Naturalization service. The interviewer asked her any number of questions, mostly personal ones, such as why wasn't she satisfied with the work she is doing, which happened to be an NYA job; finally she was allowed to fill out the necessary blanks. She was then told to have the statements notarized. In the meantime, a white girl was interviewed, receiving her certification and was told when to report to work. Miss Waters was told to go home, she would be notified by telephone when a vacancy existed.

HAS RIGHT TO SPECIFY

When she got home, she called the civil service commission, read the telegram to the information clerk and was told that it was one of appointment. Miss Waters then related what had happened and the information clerk said it was because she was colored that she did not get the job, and further informed that the department had a right to say whether they wanted white or colored workers.

Miss Odeal Clark, of Washington, D. C., went to the Federal Housing Authority to ask for an aplication blank for typist. She spoke with an as[illegible]t in the Federal Housing Administration. She was asked if she had an appointment [illegible] when she said no, she wa[illegible]:

"Oh, I see. Well, I'm sorry, but we don't hire any colored typist in this building. In fact, we have no colored people for any kind of work except charwoman. I'm sure you wouldn't be interested in that. Sorry you had to wait all this time just to hear that."

Robert H. Thompson of Pittsburgh received the following wire:

"If interested in temporary appointment at $1440 as junior photographer for a period of three months with privilege of extension of three months, please report for personal interview with Mr. Love 315 Pennsylvania avenue, not later than July 8, at 4 p. m.

"Donald R. Perry, Acting Director of Alien Registration."

Mr. Thompson came to Washington for the interview and was politely told that he would have to wait about two weeks since the jobs hadn't "come through" as yet. At the end of two weeks, he went back. He filled out the civil service blank, enclosed his photograph as requested.

ADVISED TO RETURN HOME

When he went back on July 21, he was advised that there had been no change in the positions, they weren't ready as yet, but the interviewer suggested that it would be best for Mr. Thompson to go back to Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Martha G. Young, Washington, was wired to report for a position as clerk-typist in the Civil Aeronautics administration, the telegram being signed by Dick Carlson, personnel director. When she reported for the interview, she talked with a Miss Ro[illegible] who is reported to have sai[illegible] positions hadn't come through as yet and she ha[illegible] sent the telegrams for interviews, they didn't mean positions, however, in case a position was open, she would contact Mrs. Young.

Prior to this call, Mrs. Young had received a letter from the state department in which she was told,

"If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please fill out the enclosed application form and bring it to Room 1000, Department of State Building," and was signed "B. F. Allen, Chief Recruiting and Selection section."

A COMMON PRACTICE

Mrs. Young went for the interview on July 21 and talked with Mr. Allen who said people had been coming in since the day before, which happened to be Sunday, and early that morning, and due to the limited number of positions, they all had been filled. However, he did tell Mrs. Young that if a vacancy occurred, she would be notified.

All of these cases have been filed with the local NAACP in the hope that they may be brought to light and something done to stop the vicious practice of barring Negroes from positions through the flimsy excuses usually offered.

This has bene a common practice in the departments and hundreds of Negroes have been turned down on account of these procedures.

It is reported again, that the 13 colored girls supposed to be in the stenographic pool in the war department, Munitions building have not been furnished with typewriters to date and they are merely herded together in one room, with no work to do and nothing to work with in the event some brass hat decided to give them a tryout.

AUG 2 1941

35c-1941

GENERAL

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Drive on Jim-Crow Is Winning Negroes Jobs

AUG 25 1941

McNutt Declares Survey Shows Employment Increase in Industry in Past Few Months

35c

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 22.—The Jim-Crow employment wall in industry is slowly being broken down.

Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt announced recently that 47 per cent more Negroes were placed by State employment offices from January to May, 1941, than in the same period last year.

"Use of this important group of American workers will do much to reduce labor stringencies and will speed the defense program," McNutt stated.

Twenty per cent of all workers placed by State employment offices from January to May were Negroes, the Social Security Board survey stated. In all, 414,595 placements of Negro workers were made.

However, the report revealed that most of these jobs were in construction and service industries. This fact made it plain that large corporations engaged in defense work have not yet abandoned their Jim Crow policies.

SOME ADVANCES

But organized pressure from Negro and progressive groups to create more jobs for Negroes in American industry, together with the President's executive order against discrimination, have achieved results.

States engaged in important defense work, such as Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio reported substantial gains in placements of Negro workers.

AUG 25 1941

In Connecticut, placements of Negro workers almost doubled and in New York the number of Negroes employed was increased by 111 per cent.

McNutt also stated that "placements of Negroes now appear to be increasing somewhat faster than that of other workers," and cited that placements of Negroes increased 15 per cent from April to May as contrasted with 12 per cent for other persons.

The explanation for this trend may be seen in the continued refusal of big business to hire Negroes despite the fact that thousands of skilled Negro workers were unemployed.

Faced with a shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers in many fields, and the pressure from Negro groups and the government against Jim-Crow policies, many employers are now beginning to cease their discriminatory practices.

AUG 25 1941

Placements of Negroes in construction jobs during the first five months of 1941 comprised 22 per cent of all placements. One reason for this high percentage may be the fact that Negro workers have long been experienced artisans in the building trades industry.

More than 2,500 Negro carpenters were given jobs in camp construction, along with others employed as brickmasons, plasterers, cement finishers, painters and plumbers.

While many aircraft and shipbuilding firms have just begun to train Negroes for skilled jobs, discrimination against minority groups is still widespread in American industry and in plants with defense contracts.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Discrimination Not Permitted On WPA Jobs

Commissioner Declares Race, Creed No Obstacle

35c

"It is imperative that in the selection and reference of workers for training and employment under this program the Works Project Administration maintain its established policy of non-discrimination against workers because of race, creed, color or national origin."

AUG 25 1941

This is one of the important points in recent instruction in a letter from Howard O. Hunter, commissioner of works projects, to State WPA Administrators through the country. Mr. Hunter also called attention to Section 24 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942, which makes discrimination against workers unlawful and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

The commissioner ordered that his warning of discrimination against WPA workers because of race, creed, color, or national origin be promptly brought to the attention of all administrative and supervisory employes of the WPA in every State. Full text of Mr. Hunter's letter to State administrators follows:

"An executive order issued by the President on June 25, 1941, directs all departments and agencies of the government concerned with vocational and training programs for the defense production to institute saefguards against discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin.

"In this connection, it is imperative that in the selection and referral of workers for training and employment under this program the Works Project Administration maintain its established policy of non-discrimination against workers because of race, creed, color, or national origin.

"This will also serve to emphasize Section 24, of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1942, wherein discrimination against workers is designated as unlawful and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

"The intent of this commissioner's letter shall be immediately brought to the attention of all administrative and supervisory employes of the Works Project Administration in your State."

AUG 25 1941

According to Alfred Edgar Smith, staff adviser, Federal WPA safeguards against discrimination which would operate to the disadvantage of WPA workers because of race, creed, color, or national origin have been in effect since February, 1934. At that time Forrester B. Washington, present director of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, was director of Negro Work in the old Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Mr. Smith was Mr. Washington's assistant.

The current non-discrimination letter issued by Commissioner Hunter follows the appropriation by Congress of $875,000,000 to WPA for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942. Section 24 of this act, mentioned in Mr. Hunter's letter, says in part:

"...Except as may be authorized or required by law, it shall be unlawful for any person to deprive, attempt to deprive, or threaten to deprive, by any means, any person of any employment, position, work, compensation, or other benefit, provided for or made possible by this joint resolution, on account of race, creed, color, or any political activity...

Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both..."

AUG 25 1941

Section 22 of the same Congressional Act imposes a $2,000 fine or imprisonment of not more than two years, or both, for "any person who...knowingly, by means of any fraud, force, threat, intimidation, or boycott, or discrimination on account of race, religion, political affiliations, or membership or non-membership in a labor organization, deprives any person of any of the benefits to which he may be entitled under any such appropriations."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Claim Secretary Perkins Unfair To Race Women

WASHRINGTON, — (ANP) — Secretary Frances Perkins of the department of labor in answer to a plea for jobs for Negro Women in the Bureau from the National Non-Partisan league of the AKA, shows either a disregard for their presentation or ignorance, according to a letter received by the league discussing the matter.

In September Miss Jeanetta Welch, Dr. Dorothy Ferebee and Miss Norma Boyd, representing the AKA Non Partisan league, had an appointment made to talk with Madame Perkins.

As a result, a letter was sent following their talk with the secretary, pointing out there were two women qualified to hold down positions as junior investigators and two qualified as stenographers, all four of them being on the civil service list.

Madame Perkins asked about these positions and expressed herself as being hopeful that they could be placed.

NO VACANCIES

OCT 27 1941

But to the amazement of the non-partisan group, they received a letter from the secretary stating:

"We have no vacancies in the woman's bureau at the present time. If we should by any chance receive additional money for defense work and if there should be a qualified Negro woman on the civil service lists, it is likely to be possible then to make such an appointment."

Miss Welch of the non partisan league had already pointed out to Mrs. Perkins the fact that these four women were qualified under the civil service and already were on the lists.

OCT 27 1941

What adds to the situation which grows ridiculous is the fact that the bureau is advertising its needs along these lines and qualified Negro workers are being overlooked in the shuffle.

However, the non partisan league is determined to push the cause and will again call Mrs. Perkins' attention to the fact that there are qualified workers available and awaiting call.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Commercial Radio Won't Hire Colored

(Third of a series written exclusively for the AFRO-AMERICAN by Frank D. Griffin.)

By **FRANK D. GRIFFIN**

When you hear the announcer say on the air that you are listening to this or that program or any of the many advertising blurbs (which in radio are called commercials), a lot of water has gone under the bridge before you hear his suave voice in your living room.

AUG 25 1941

Few of us realize that behind that "comercial" is a billion-dollar business and that the whole system is based on not what the public might want, but what the advertisers think will sell their product, and, although radio is the greatest entertainment feature and social instrument in the world, it is controlled lock, stock and barrel by a few companies.

Greatest Opposition

The middle man, the advertising agency, whom you never hear of, together with the sponsor of a program plan what you and I are to hear on our radio sets. It is here that the colored artist meets one of his biggest problems for 90 per cent of radio's major programs are contracted through these advertising companies, numbering less than fifty.

A writer, or an idea-man, must first present himself to these mighty moguls for a hearing. He soon learns that here as elsewhere his greatest sin is in the color of his skin. Whereas a white writer may see an official, the colored aspirant rarely gets beyond the icy receptionist.

Must Sign Away Rights

Assuming that this writer or "idea-man" gets by the receptionist and presents material that the company has use for, there is very small chance even then that the company will accept the material; and if on rare occasions the company does accept this material it is bought from him for a mere pittance and all personal rights must be signed away.

Certain white writers, whom I have interviewed, whose names I withhold for obvious reasons, state to me that when their scripts call for parts in which they expect to use colored persons it is usually to be constructed in dialect or associated with foolish characters, crap games, razor fights and the like.

Ellington as Example

This characterization is forced upon them in many instances when they receive their assignment to write the show. A commercial program with a colored characterization in it, possessing dignity and honor, is a rarity. These facts exist in every phase of commercial radio.

Duke Ellington is considered a peer by muscians and music lovers and yet this excellent artist and his organization cannot get a contract with such commercial programs as Campbell's Soup (who, incidentally, uses blackface comedians, Amos 'n' Andy), Lucky Strike, Camel Cigarettes and Kraft Music Hall and others.

Radio Washes Face

While it is admitted that Count Basie played recently a No. 1 spot in Boston and Cab Calloway has a music quizzical, which is a staff program, great colored bands never get the breaks they deserve.

It was different when radio was in its infancy, for then every night colored bands held forth on the air, but since radio has become big business they have hung out the jim crow sign. And so it is in the control room and in the studios, sometimes subtle, but always present.

Page Boys Have Advantage

Visit Radio City and you will see tens of page boys, all of them with aspirations of becoming a radio announcer or actor some day. Many of them attend announcers' schools run by the networks, but none of these page boys are colored, neither are the announcers in the studios, although it is admitted that our people possess some of the finest radio voices, that could not but please the most exacting sponsor, barring his prejudice.

Radio, as an industry, is definitely a part of national defense but as far as New York is concerned no change in their discriminatory policy is apparent, despite the President's "plea."

Survey Underway

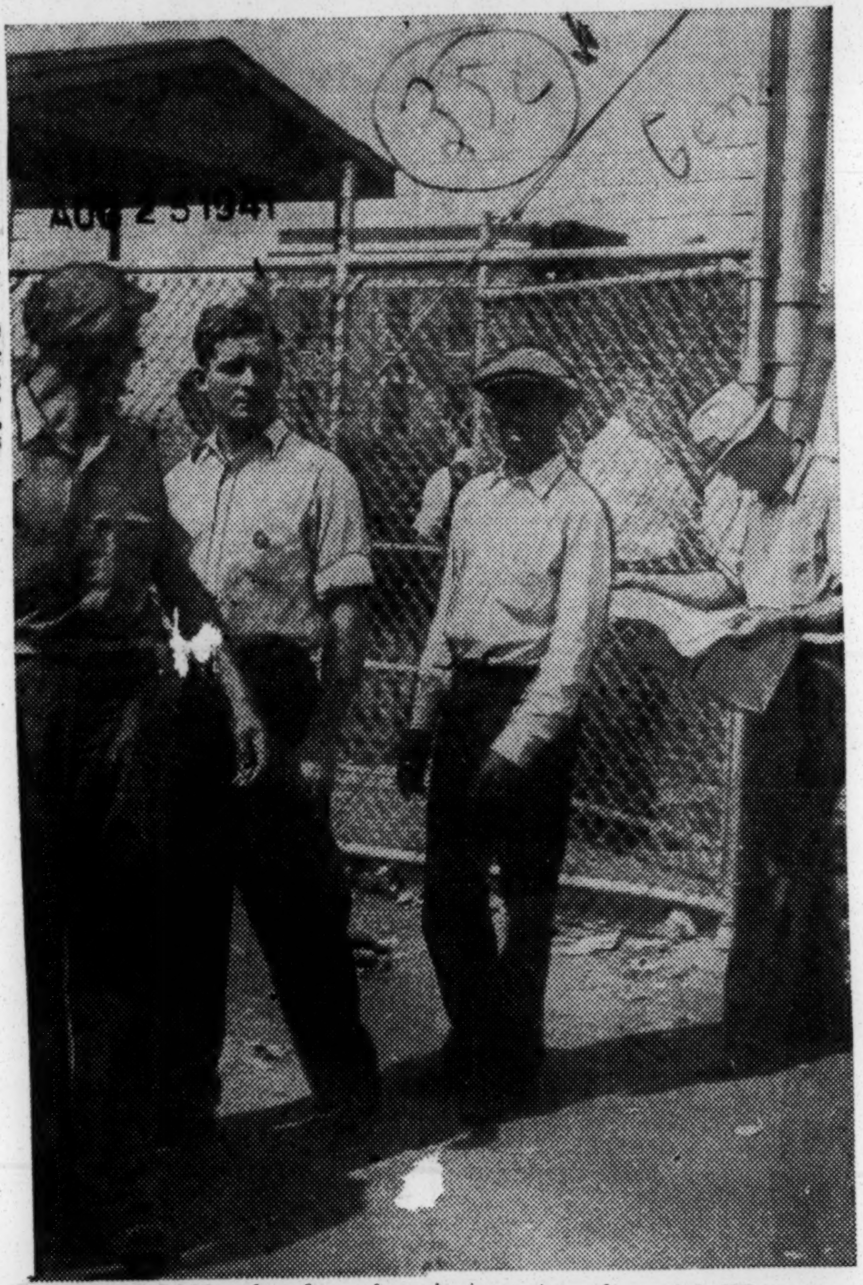
Then there is the attitude of some colored persons who aspire to these positions, which is in many instances after one or two rebuffs changed to an attitude of wishful thinking. But there are those who continue to fight to break down these bars of discrimination.

Recently, the largest body of American writers went on record condemning these practices and called upon the American people to help stamp them out. A survey is being undertaken to gather information and plans are being made toward organizing a fight against this situation and gaining popular support to attack this problem from three of its most important angles, namely, the sponsors, the advertising agencies and the radio chains.

Not only the commercial side must be held up to the public for scrutiny but also what is called the "sustaining program" as well. This is the subject of another article.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

No Discrimination Here



AUG 25 1941

More than 3,000 colored workers at the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Kearney, N.J., were among the 17,000 walking out of the yards Monday morning when the management refused demands for a closed shop. In the picket line (above), just as at work, racial differences were forgotten as the workers pushed their demands, which must be met, as they have threatened to tie-up for an indefinite spell $493,000,000 in defense contracts. The government may take over the operation of the plant, it was reported.

35c-1941

GEORGIA

Dublin, Ga., Citizen
February 6, 1941

WHAT PRICE PREJUDICES?

Everyone will agree that a policy of discrimination in the field of employment applied against a large group of American citizens would impair our national unity. It is also clear that national unity is essential to the success of our defense program. Again, it is generally known that many of our defense industries are hard put to find enough skilled labor. Under all these circumstances no one would expect that there would be any employment discrimination by these industries.

But, consider this: Recently the great expansion of the aircrafe industry caused several large concerns to make announcemtnts in the daily press that skilled mechanics are urgently needed. One aircrafe company has launched a huge training program wherein 8,000 young men are to be enrolled as mechanical aprntices in order to overcome the present shortage of trained mcehanics.

In the meantime, and while these preparations were under way, seventeen young men, all graduates of the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades, applied at plants for employment. T[illegible] the necessary requirements and credentials. Their classmates—with the same training—were all accepted. But these seventeen young men were rejected by three companies! They were Ngroes

Several organizations have joined ogether in a determined effort to emedy this outrageous discrimination. The representatives of one f the organizations have been reerred from one official to another, Up to now their efforts have met with delays, alibis, and buck-passing. They have been told that "it s being seriously studied." But nothing has been done, although these companies are in dire need of more mechanics!

Fortunately it is the determined purpose of this committee to keep everlasting at it until justice is secured for these seventeen Amricans, for the Negro group in America, and in order that our national unity be insured and our democracy vindicated.

We anticipate that public opinion will rally to the support of the committee and that the wrong will be righted.

We believe, too, that this issue will serve to convince the Americans that the Negro will prove worthy of all consideration.

35c-Ga

35c-1941

ILLINOIS

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Unskilled Jobs For Race Men

35c

JOLIET, Ill.—Three hundred jobs for unskilled workmen were made available to Negroes at the powder plant in Wilmington, Ill., through the efforts of the Ministers Civic State league of Illinois who have been working diligently to break down the barriers faced by Negro workers seeking jobs under the defense program.

Rev. D. Z. Jackson, president of the league, is pastor of Liberty Baptist church, 56 East Forty-sixth street in Chicago, and vice president of the State convention.

Others who participated in the ight were Rev. J. L. Horace, president of the State convention of Illinois; Atty. George W. Lawrence and Ald. Benjamin Grant

---

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Job Jim Crow Revealed at Interview; Even Shoppers Insulted

By Carl Harris
(Special to the Daily Worker)

35c

CHICAGO, Ill., May 9.—Marshall Field III—outstanding war-monger —has been caught here without his britches.

Mr. Field's newspaper 'PM' has been carrying on a big campaign "against job discrimination against Negroes."

But Mr. Field's Employment Manager in Chicago admitted today that Marshall Field & Co., does not employ a single Negro in any of its stores, offices or warehouses here. Obviously,. Mr. Field and the 60 other leading exponents of immediate American military entry into the war, who signed a statement condemning jim crow, are not concerned over the Negro people at all. These crocodile tears have only one purpose and that is to capture the Negro masses for the war program.

PM SENDS 'WIRES'

MAY 10 1941

Marshall Field's newspaper, "PM," has been sending wires to a number of firms demanding to know why they refuse to employ Negroes. However, no such wire was sent to Marshall Field & So.

In an interview with Joseph W. Mackemer, Personnel Manager of Marshall Field & Co. today, the Wednesday issue of "PM" was shoved under his nose with the headline, "So you won't hire Negroes? We'd like to know why?"

"Hm," said Mr. Mackemer, "so this is Field's paper?" Well, you see, t's like this. We don't have any policy against Negroes. We just don't hire them."

He explained confidentially that "we have never found any suitable place for them in our organization."

Out of some 7,000 employes in one of the largest department stores in America, and in the many wholesale departments, warehouses and other units, not a single Negro is employed, Mackemer declared.

MYSTERIOUS 'JOBS'

The Personnel Manager had already consulted high-ups on this embarrassing situation. He had a prepared statement ready.

Mr. Mackemer said that the concern does employ 100 Negroes, but not in Chicago, and just where was not very clear. The prepared statement said:

"It is only natural that, over the years, the great majority of our employes are of the white race. However, we have never had and do not now have any rule against employing Negroes. As a matter of fact, there are at the present time over one hundred Negroes on the payrol of this corporation."

An added cynical touch was that the word "Negro" was written with a small "n."

MAY 10 1941

Mr. Mackemer felt that his explanation was a little inadequate. "You see," he continued, "Since 99 per cent of our customers are white, we don't find it necessary to employ Negroes."

What he didn't mention was that Field's makes a practice of insulting Negro patrons to stop them from coming into the store. Field employees also told the Daily Worker that sales people have been fired for waiting on Negroes.

"PM," which has recently fallen into the hands of the enormously wealthy Marshall Field III, boasted in its Thursday issue of the huge campaign which it has opened against jim crow. A score of firms were sent wires stating:

PM 'CRUSADES'

MAY 10 1941

"We believe that the 15,000,000 Negro people in the United States have the right to fight fascism and the right to participate in democracy—economic as well as political."

The wires then went on to ask the fololwing questions:

"How many persons do you employ? How many Negroes do you employ? What kind of jobs do the Negroes have? What is your policy toward employment of Negroes?" (In every case the word "Negro" was spelled with a small "n."

The answer of Marshal Field III to these questions would be a boomerang to shattering the fake concern of these war mongers over the Negro people.

MAY 10 194

The hypocrisy of Mr. Field is reflected, at the same time, through the Negro reformists such as A. Philip Randolph, of the Sleeping Car Porters, Walter White, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the leaders of the Urban Lague, an organization to which Marshall Field is an outstanding contributor.

Randolph and White have given their endorsement to this cynical campaign which is designed to shackle the Negro people to the war machine.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Illinois Jim-Crow In Defense Drives Negroes to Relief

MAY 23 1941

State Employment Agencies Admit Discrimination Despite 'War Boom'; Ads for Workers Mask Anti-Negro Bias; Labor Dep't Fails to Act

35 c

By Carl Harris

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, May 22.—The so-called "war boom" in Illinois resounds with the echo, "Jim Crow!"

The facts show that job opportunities are not opening up for the Negro people of this state. The proportion of Negroes on relief has risen sharply during recent months.

The pronouncements from Washington that Negroes must be given jobs in the so-called "defense" industries are "hollow lip service based on the desire to "sell" the war to the Negro people.

These facts are confirmed by the figures issued by state labor and relief agencies, most of which attempt to play down the glaring features of discrimination in private employment.

MAY 23 1941

LABOR "SHORTAGE"

Every street car in Chicago carries display ads by the state employment offices urging all unemployed skilled workers to register, since there is such a terrific "shortage" of skilled labor. These ads neglect to say, "Negroes need not apply."

These as make frantic appeals for machinists, welders, machine operators, tool and die and pattern makers. However, there are hundreds of Negroes skilled in these trades who cannot get employment in spite of the so-called "shortage."

At the present time, there are 12,762 skilled and semi-skilled Negroes registered with the Illinois State Employment offices and the Division of Unemployment Compensation as being available for jobs.

In the unskilled category the number of Negroes registered for employment comprise almost one-third of the total unskilled workers seeking jobs.

MAY 23 1941

JIM CROW PLANTS

It is estimated that 90 per cent of the government war orders in this state have gone to firms which make a principle of refusing to employ Negroes. These firms and thousands of others send their requests for workers to the state employment offices daily specifying "whites only." The job placements made by private employment agencies are even more heavily jim-crow in character.

That the proportion of Negroes on relief in this state is steadily rising was admitted recently by Leo M. Lyons, Chicago relief commissioner Lyons told a hearing on jobs for Negroes that "white persons are more likely to be placed in job opportunities than Negroes."

It is estimated that Negroes comprise fully 50 per cent of the general relief rolls in Chicago. This would indicate 175,000 Negroes dependent on the five public assistance programs, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission.

Officials of the Illinois Department of Labor indicated that no effort was being made to cope with the question of job discrimination. This agency does not even make any breakdown of employment figures for Negro and white workers.

One state official declared that "the attitude of employers I've talked to is, 'I'm running this business and I'll hire Negroes where and when I want to'."

However, it is evident that certain government quarters have become suddenly concerned about the long-standing problem of job discrimination. But this has gone only to the extent that hollow pronouncements have been issued by the National Defense Advisory Commission and other war bureaus in an effort to absolve the administration from any official tie-up with the jim-crow policy.

Nevertheless, the fact that the bulk of the government orders are going to openly jim-crow concerns proves that the Washington "edicts" are nothing more than a hypocritical mask.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Workers on W. P. A. Denounce Job Discrimination

35c

Chicago, Ill.

Workers Correspondence Department:

MAY 26 1941

WPA workers in Chicago are aroused over the wave of firings and intimidations to which they are being subjected. This is keenly felt among the Negro workers like myself, for whom the "war boom" is just a myth, since we are NOT getting jobs in private employment.

Illinois

Hundreds of project workers discharged by private industry are not being re-hired on the WPA. Instead of restoring workers to their jobs, as is provided by law, the local administration resorts to witch-hunting and spying on all workers resigning for private employment.

W.P.A.

The relief authorities, unmoved by the needs of the people, questions the honesty of these workers and accuses them of dodging the 18 months clause. That is an unholy legal trick, passed by a hostile Congress, for the purpose of keeping WPA workers down to only 18 months of continuous employment.

MAY 26 1941

Thus if a worker dares resign for private employment he is found guilty of breaking the law. If he is lucky enough to stay the 18-months period, he is out for good. Consequently, the worker finds himself in the middle.

That President Roosevelt and Congress—with an eye on full participation in Europe's war—seek to scuttle WPA when 9,000,000 workers are still unemployed, is no secret. A more revealing plan to starve the unemployed is Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau's latest move to cut "non-defense" appropriations by one billion dollars. Hence, pressure is put on the WPA officials to do the dirty work locally.

Our grievance committee of Local 346 AFL (WPA Teachers) has a long list of grievances of members denied assignments. Frequent conferences are held by this committee with the law-breaking officials demanding immediate reinstatement of union members.

MAY 26 1941

Another step forward is the union's call for mass meetings in the communities to stimulate cooperation of all labor, church and civic groups around the fight for a minimum of three million jobs for the unemployed.

Our slogan is "Put the unemployed back to work at jobs with decent wages."

MAY 26 1941

A Negro WPA Worker.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Council Puts Teeth In No-Jim Crow Job Clause

CHICAGO—(ANP)—The Chicago City council Thursday adopted an amendment to a traction ordinance [illegible] only prohibits discrimination in the selection of employees but gives the additional protection of redress in the case of any denial of employment because of race.

JUN 30 1941

This amendment for which Ald. Earl B. Dickerson, assisted by Ald. Benjamin A. Grant, has sought for a number of months to have adopted, represents a definite gain in Negro employment rights.

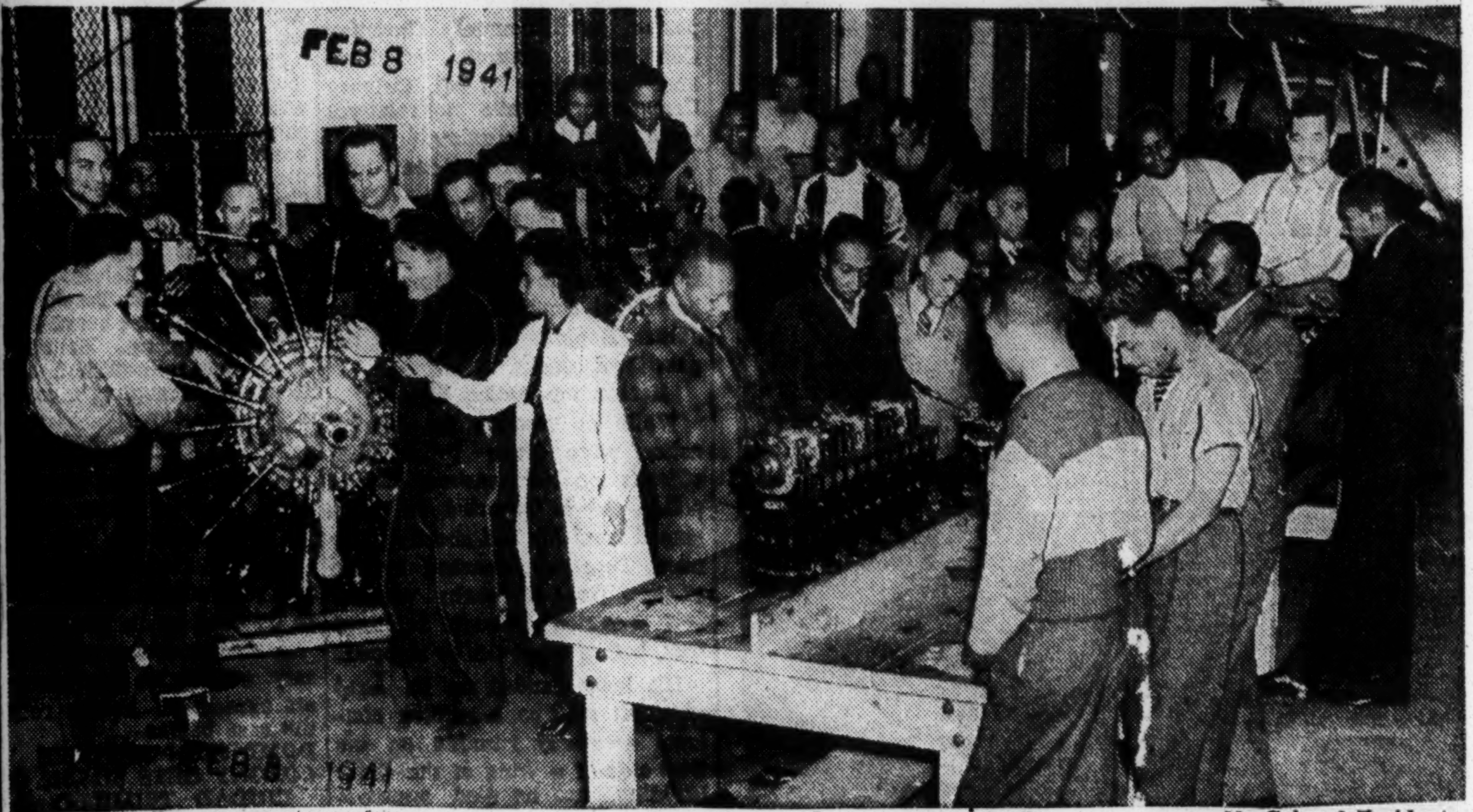
The clause written by Ald. Dickerson is specifically designed to protect the prespective Negro employee of private traction lines whose contracts are being renewed by [illegible] city council.

JUN 30 1941

Permission to operate will be given the transportation company upon condition that the company "agrees that there shall be no discrimination exercised against any person because of color, race creed, or religious affiliation."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Proof That Races Can Mix in Aviation Training



FEB 8 1941

Miss Willa Brown, secretary of the National Airmen's Association and co-ordinator for Civil Aeronautics Authority programs in Chicago, is shown (in white smock) instructing students of all races in one of her aviation classes at Wendell Phillips High School in that city.

This evidence of the democratic policy of the CAA is one of the strongest arguments cited by the airmen's association in its attack on the War Department's recently announced policy of segregation for the U.S. Army Air Corps. According to Cornelius R. Coffey, NNA president, colored and white have worked harmoniously together in the civilian pilot training program even in the South.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

34 CONCERNS HIRE FIRST NEGROES AS RESULT OF DRIVE

MAR 9 1941

Thirty-four firms are now employing Negro workers for the first time in their histories as the result of a six months' campaign by the Chicago Urban league, officials of the social organization reported yesterday.

Howard D. Gould, director of the department of industrial relations, said 453 Negroes had been placed in jobs by the league at an average salary of $25 a week. Many were placed in factories after they had learned trades on WPA projects, he said.

Special emphasis was put on obtaining jobs for Negro women, who suffer more from occupational discrimination than men, Gould declared.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Job Canceled in All-White Illinois Town

MAY 3 1941

By HERMAN CLAYTON

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—The fact that LaSalle, Ill., is a lily-white town, lost for Mrs. Mabel Johnson, resident of the Phyllis Wheatley home, immediate appointment to the position of junior interviewer in the unemployment division of the civil service, last week.

MAY 3 1941

Mrs. Johnson, one of the high scorers in the general civil service examination held about two years ago, received notice of her appointment two weeks ago, effective on April 21.

No Colored Residents

Immediately she began making inquiries for a place to stay. Repeatedly she was informed that the city contained no colored residents. Finally she wrote to the city's chamber of commerce and was officially informed that there were absolutely no colored people dwelling in the city. The letter made it clear to Mrs. Johnson that in view of the fact, she was not expected to come.

Thus informed, she took the matter up with Dean Curry, director of the Illinois Civil Service commission. He wrote back that her case had been studied, and that in view of the situation the next eligible had been appointed to the position. Her name, he said, would be retained on the eligible list to be notified of a future vacancy. In the meantime, Mrs. Johnson is obliged to sit in continued idleness while the board awaits, first another opening, and, secondly, an opening to which it would be safe to appoint a colored interviewer.

MAY 3 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

HIRE NEGRO GIRL CLERK; TOLD TO MOVE

AUG 25 1941

NNC AND CIO Protest Un-Americanism Of Realty Body

Because they had a Negro girl employed as clerk in the offices, the United Conference on the High Cost of Living was this week deprived of its offices at 132 North Clark street by the Casper Realty company.

The young woman, Miss Alpha Beckham, has been in the employ of the conference for quite some time. The conference had maintained offices in the Clark street building for only a month.

As a result of the action on the part of the realty company, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which also has offices in the building has threatened to move.

The National Negro Congress has taken the matter up with the realty company in the form of a protest letter, in which they charge the realtors with breaking national unity and indulging in un-American practices.

AUG 2

The United Conference on the High Cost of Living is an organization composed of and supported by many of the leading organizations of the city and state. Its purpose is to protect consumer interests and it makes no distinction as to race in its organizational set-up.

ALLIANCE PROTES

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Jim-Crow Policy of PM Owner Revealed

MAY 9 1941

Huge Marshall Field Chicago Dep't Store Bans Negroes from Any Job; Survey Exposes War Hypocrisy in PM's Negro 'Rights' Spread

MAY 9 1941

By Carl Harris
(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Ill., May 8.—A statement “opposing job discrimination against Negroes,” signed by 60 leading warmongers was exposed here today as a hoax designed to ensnare the Negro people into the war camp.

One of the signers—Marshall Field—was revealed as one of the outstanding exponents of jim crow.

Marshall Field & Co., one of the largest merchandising firms in America, which employs 7,600 workers here, does not employ a single Negro.

MAY 9 1941

This smashing revelation by the Daily Worker today threw a powerful spotlight on the hypocrisy and cynicism of the Roosevelt war strategists. Their slogans about “de-

The policy of jim crow, which the statement declared was based on “ignorance” was revealed to be the official policy of Marshall Field & Co., by Walter A. Deans, organizer for the CIO Department Store Employes Union, who is a former Field employe.

Dean also declared that Marshall Field “makes a practice of insulting Negro patrons to discourage them even coming into the store.”

“So far as I know this firm bars Negroes from employment entirely, even from the most menial jobs,” he said.

MAY 9 1941

Marshall Field owns huge apartment buildings on the North Side and on the far South Side of Chicago, where Jews are not allowed to rent, let alone Negroes.

Said Ishmael P. Flory, chairman of the Chicago Chapter of the National Negro Congress:

“This is one of the most brazen pieces of trickery yet. Job discrimination against Negroes is widespread, even in firms which are receiving public funds for war contracts, but it takes the hypocrisy of a Marshall Field to convince thousands of Negro workers that the war slogans of Washington are phony.”

“No amount of verbiage can cloak these war-mongers who shout about Hitlerism abroad and practice Hitlerism at home.”

ganize Fields' against the bitter opposition and law-breaking practices of the firm.

2. By a number of employes in the huge loop department store.

3. By the Chicago Chapter of the National Negro Congress, which has been conducting a survey of job discrimination.

4. By a number of Negroes who sought jobs at Fields' and were not even allowed to fill an application blank by Assistant Employment Manager Frank Wilson.

The investigation by the Daily Worker was prompted by the statement issued by 60 open exponents of American military entry into the imperialist war, headed by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York City and Governor Herbert Lehman of New York.

The statement was also signed by several Negro reformists who have also been trying to persuade the Negro people that their place is in the war camp.

MAY 9 1941

The statement which declared that “those who raise unjust barriers at this critical period are responsible for obstructing the national defense and welfare,” was featured in a nine-page spread in Wednesday's issue of “PM,” New York newspaper, in which Marshall Field has a controlling interest.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

PICKET LARGE SURGICAL CO., DEMAND JOBS

MAY 4 - 1941

Demanding a fair share of jobs in Bauer and Black company, surgical preparations firm, which has a large defense contract, N. A. A. C. P. members and representatives of other cooperating organizations picketed that company's plant last Saturday morning. Carrying banners and signs calling for the abolition of racial discrimination in national defense industries the picketers marched around the plant during the entire morning shift. Saturday's demonstration was part of a nation-wide movement by NAACP branches in nearly fifty United States cities protesting the refusal of many defense industries to employ colored workers. The movement was called by the board of directors of the association.

MAY 4 - 1941

In Chicago, many churches and organizations participated. Some among them were: the National Negro Congress, Metropolitan Men's Community Club, striking workers of the New York Handkerchief company, Indiana Avenue M. E. church, Postal Alliance, Chicago Negro Labor Relations League, Fur Workers Union, Chicago Urban League, James Weldon Johnson Youth Council, N. A. A. C. P.; Mid South Side Youth Council, NAACP.

A conference was held between representatives of the NAACP and a member of the firm while the picketing was in progress. At this time, the demands of the Negro community were laid before the company and immediate action was requested. A further conference was arranged with higher officials. It is believed that the picketing of the plant had a great effect on the attitude of the company and that victory will be achieved.

MAY 4 - 1941

The Chicago Branch, NAACP, will not leave the fight there, however, and picketing will continue until a definite statement is made by the company. Plans are being made for a nation-wide boycott of Bauer and Black's products, used by Negro physicians and citizens all over the country. It appears, the association contends, that action of this kind is the only way to change the undemocratic and un-American policy of these companies.

Ira W. Williams is president of the local branch; Elmer W. Henderson is chairman of the defense committee.

35c-1941 KANSAS

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

White Youths Say They Would Not Object To Working With Negroes

Trainees for Bomber Plant Work Say They Would Not Mind Working With Negroes in Construction of Planes

By T. R. THURSTON

What may be an employe problem in Southern California mav be just a plain case of attempted discrimination in the "Free State" of Kansas.

This is the conclusion at which I arrived last week after informally "interviewing" a number of white trainees at the Ninth and Washington unit of the Kansas City, Kas., emergency defense training school.

Previously, I had been informed by L. E. Falgren, supervisor of vocational education in Kansas City, Kas., that in Inglewood. Cal., officials of the North American Aviation corporation regard the matter of hiring Negro workers as "purely an employe problem."

During a visit there, Falgren said he had been told that white men demonstrated their unwillingness to work with members of "colored races" by walking off the job when a Mexican was put to work with them. It was assumed, therefore, that white men in Kansas would be equally as unwilling to work with Negro men—in the Fairfax Bomber plant.

Notwithstanding the fact that white and Negro men work harmoniously side by side in the packing, steel and railroad industries in Kansas City, the attitude of local and state educational authorities appears to be too greatly colored by an incident which occasioned the separation of local schools in the early part of the century. At that time secondary schools in Kansas City, Kas., were mixed. Today, board of education members and other authorities justify the segregated defense training classes on the grounds of that far-off incident, which occurred, not in the classroom, but on a playground, where children, not grown men, were the principals.

"Remember, there musn't be a repitition of that incident," they say.

Oddly enough, though, no one fears or anticipates a "repitition of that incident" except school authorities. Moreover among the white trainees there does not appear to be any marked unwillingness or aversion to working with Negroes.

Several young fellows told me that they had worked with "colored men" in the packing houses, and "we got along all right."

"I don't mind working with any man as long as he's intelligent," one youth said, "and I know there are a lot of intelligent Negroes."

Said another, "Why should I mind? A colored man's just another man, isn't he?"

One, who had probably given the question a bit of previous thought asked a question: "Why do they have us in separate classes from the colored boys?"

"I work in enclosures," this prospective bombing plane worker said, "and I've just taken it for granted that the colored fellows would work in a department to themselves—drilling and riveting." He did not say whether he would or would not mind working with Negroes. But obviously the seed the authorities have desired to plant has found fertile ground in at least one mind.

A few other young white Americans expressed the attitude that has been deplored from the beginning of time: "Mind working with Negroes? Well, it depends on how the other fellow feels about it."

It was pointed out to them that in some Southern defense plants white men have walked out when Negro workers were brought in. Would they do the same? And again, but rather shamefacedly: "Well, that depends on what the other fellow did." Wherever there is an attempt to sow seed of segregation and discrimination, this type of mind is also workable ground.

To me, it was encouraging, however, to note how few of the fellows took dubious or downright aversive attitudes.

"You know we gotta lick Hitler," several said with engaging grins, "and it doesn't matter who works as long as the job is done."

All stalwart, conscientious and intelligent-appearing young Americans, most of them seemed to feel that if it were a national problem to be met, the job of meeting it should be done as democratically as possible. Most of them seemed more than a little surprised to learn that school board authorities felt that they would react similarly to Southern whites. Most of them appeared to be the kind of lads who would have a lot less prejudice if it were not instilled in them by their conscientious elders.

And not from a single one of them was the impression gained that their reaction to working with Negroes would cause any serious disruption at the Fairfax Bomber plant.

I still say: What may be an employe problem in Southern California may be just a plain case of attempted discrimination in the "Free State" of Kansas.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

35c

Kansas Citians Win Fight

Roberta Coffee And Mrs. Percy Lee Begin Work

Two Negro social workers will begin work as junior employment security deputies at the Negro division of the Missouri State Employment office, 1210 East Twelfth street, next week, it was announced yesterday by William M. Kirby, district mnagar.

They are Miss Roberta L Coffey, 2406 the Paseo, and Mrs. Percy H. Lee, 2707 East Twenty-third street. Both now are employed with the Missouri State Social Security Commission, 200 West Seventeenth street. Miss Coffey will begin her duties with the Employment office on Monday, August 18. Mrs. Lee will begin Wednesday, August 20.

The employment of Negro social workers at the Twelfth street office has been sought by leaders in the Negro community ever since the office was opened in January, 1939. It was felt that a better job of classifying the workers who seek employment through the office would be done through Negro interviewers.

Qualified Negro persons were urged to take the state merit examinations from which an eligible list was compiled. Miss Coffey and Mrs. Lee qualified for employment through these examinations.

With the addition of Miss Coffey and Mrs. Lee to the Twelfth street office, the staff will be composed of 11 persons, nine white and two Negroes. Henry H. Kadler is the division manager. In other cities "mixed staffs" have been highly satisfactory, according to government officials who have been in conference with Kansas Citians on this subject in recent months. Kansas City social workers are accustomed to mixed staffs since white and Negro persons work together at the Social Security office, at the Provident association and other social agencies.

Mr. Kirby expressed the hope that enough Negroes would qualify for positions in the employment service that the Twelfth street office could be manned by an all-Negro staff sometime in the future. "We will be glad to appoint Negro social workers if they take the examinations and get on the eligible list," he said.

Several additional Negro persons took the Employment Security examinations given last Saturday at the Central high school.

The Twelfth street office is one of the most modern and best equipped employment offices in the country, according to Mr. Kirby and Lt. Lawrence A. Oxley of the U. S. Employment Service in Washington who was here when the office moved into its new quarters with the glass brick front.

Mrs. Lee has been engaged in social work here for the past two years. She taught school here for 13 years prior to her marriage in 1934 to Pecy H. Lee, industrial arts teacher here. Mrs. Lee, a native of Oklahoma, taught in Tulsa before coming here in 1921.

Miss Coffee, a native of Frankfort, Kas., came to Kansas City in 1934 following her graduation from the University of Nebraska. She began work as a social worker in 1935.

35c-1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS

North American Aviation Head Says Colored Men Will Be Janitors Only

MAR 21 1941

J. H. Kindelberger Makes Statement That Negroes Will Not Hold Skilled Jobs No Matter How Well Trained

Kansas

35c

MAR 21 1941

By declaring that "regardless of their training as aircraft workers, we will not employ them (Negroes) in the North American plant" now under construction in Kansas City, Kas., President Kindelberger of that company brings up Negro participation in national defense work from the employer viewpoint.

What Negroes shall do to defend America and democracy has already been under consideration from the government and labor angles. In keeping with the announcement made by the staff, nine per cent of all the men taken into the army are Negroes and different from formerly, they are being trained for all branches of that service. Recently they have been invited to enlist for the air corps.

MAR 21 1941

Negroes' right to participate in defense has been accepted by labor also. Here in the Kansas City area where for years they were not permitted to join any of the organized building crafts (except hod carriers) they have been granted a local charter by the carpenters district council, as the result of which they have been at work on the cantonments at Ft. Riley and at Camp Leonard Wood.

'NO DISCRIMINATION' IS U. S. POLICY

The government intends that the Negro have his full share industrially. At the beginning of its defense preparations, speaking through the defense commission, it asked that there be "no discrimination" in employment. To make certain that there was no discrimination, it named a Negro assistant to Sidney Hillman, the chief of the labor section of the defense. This auxiliary effort has been at work at all times with the fullest support.

Now comes an employer, the North American Aviation Company, tied into national defense by virtue of a contract to operate a government-owned factory, which says flatly that it discriminates, even to the point of refusing to hire Negroes "regardless of their training as aircraft workers." There is no mistaking the meaning of that language. It is diametrically counter to the government's position. It blocks what the government is doing about defense training.

'TRAINING OF LIKE QUALITY'

MAR 21 1941

In a letter to the schools in states where the races are educated separately, the U. S. Office of Education made clear what the government desires about defense training. It started out by quoting the law:

> "No trainee under the foregoing appropriations shall be discriminated against because of sex, race or color; and where separate schools are required by law for separate population groups . . . equitable provision shall be made for facilities and training of like quality."

Then to make sure that the intent of the law was clear. the commissioner of education explained: "I fully realize that in providing training for Negroes on this basis, it will appear that more Negroes are being trained than can be immediately employed. Some delay in employment is occurring also among white people who have been trained. I have the assurance of the representatives of the Defense Commission that in view of the large percentage of Negroes who have not had opportunity for training in the past and the PROBABLE NEED FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF THESE NEGROES IN INDUSTRIES ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL DEFENSE, it will not be expected that they will all be readily or immediately employed, but IT IS CERTAINLY CLEAR THAT IF THEY ARE GIVEN ESSENTIAL TRAINING, THEY WILL POSSESS VALUABLE ASSETS WHICH WILL FACILITATE THEIR EMPLOYMENT. The Employment service can be depended upon to cooperate in every way possible if the schools request the assignment of Negroes."

MAR 21 1941

By refusing to hire blacks even "with the training as aircraft workers" Kindelberger stops them from wanting training in that industry, and they will not take it. It would be a waste of time and effort. As a consequence, the millions the government has appropriated for this training will be fruitless, and we over here will repeat the mistake of England that started out in the war on the "business as usual" plan, only to find itself glad to train all, including Negroes at its military school which even the average Englishman could not enter in the old days.

MAR 21 1941

This is a democracy. Mr. Kindelberger has a right to his opinions, and to his likes and dislikes. But we do insist that he shall not put his wishes ahead of national defense. Franklin D. Roosevelt is President.

Speaking in his fireside chat last Saturday night the President said: "There will be no divisions of party or section or race or nationality or religion .... A half-hearted effort will lead to failure .. This is no part-time job. The concepts of 'business as usual' must be forgotten."

That Roosevelt's position is squarely contradicted by this contractor working on an essential defense production. If he can get away with it, it is he who sets the policy of the government, and most unfortunately by making race the test for work instead of efficiency, sets it on a low level which makes a mockery of democracy and consequently dooms it to defeat.

At the beginning of the other World war a great journalist when asked what advice he had for President Wilson said, "I am not advising the President, I am supporting him." Kindelberger faces in the opposite direction, he is opposing the "no discrimination" policy which the government has determined upon as one of the needs if America is to make a successful defense.

This matter of employing Negroes has been brought to the attention of Kindelberger and the North American Aviation company before. It came up naturally. Some land adjacent to the government-built plant was needed for testing planes. The city of Kansas City, Kas., though the coming of such an industry warranted its providing the needed land. A bond election was held to authorize the purchase. Before that election Mayor Don McCombs talked with Kindelberger. His words quoted in this paper at the time were:

> **"I asked that question specifically the first time I conferred with Mr. Kindelberger long before it was generally known that the bomber plant would be located in Kansas City. Negro families live near the Fairfax airport and I was interested from the beginning in seeing that Negroes secure employment. Mr. Kindelberger assured me that there would be many jobs for colored people."**

Assuming that language was made to convey thoughts, not to conceal them, Negro citizens of Kansas City, Kas., voted four to one, as compared with the city-wide three to one, to buy the essential testing ground. Now the North American's president tells them they will be considered "only as janitors" and under no circumstances will they be used as aircraft workers or mechanics. It is a matter between the plane makers and the citizens whether they have each met the other's expectations.

But it is for America to decide whether a national policy undertaken in spite of past custom shall be set aside at the pleasure of a contractor hired to do a job for national defense. Bureaucracy in the war department has bowed to the changing times, labor is accepting Negro workers. Most employers have been American first. The airplane industry should be no exception. We look to the federal government to say to Kindelberger that his rights end where the public interest begins, and that his part in national defense is no "business as usual" undertaking.

The unreasonable discrimination that Mr. Kindelberger makes against a colored American resembles Hitler's Nazi tactics against the Jews in Germany.

The United States government is spending its billions and calling its youth to arms for a great cause. Civilization itself may depend upon every American being ready.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Bandwagon

MAY 5 - 1941

Japan will award a medal and an annuity of $10.50 a month for life to every mother of twenty-five children. – *From The Lincoln (Nebraska) Star.*

It may well be that human beings are not the central and focal point in a democratic scheme of government. – *Theodore J. Kreps, Economic Adviser to the TNEC, in Monograph No. 7, "Measurement of the Social Performance of Business."*

"While we are in complete sympathy with the Negro, it is against the company policy to employ them as mechanics or aircraft workers," Mr. Kindelberger [president and general manager of North American Aviation, Inc.] said. – *A release by the NAACP quoting a story in The Kansas City Star.*

MAY 5 - 1941

It is only reasonable to assume that unless a determined effort is undertaken to prevent increased wages, we will suffer from inflation, our worst economic disease. It takes away the most from those who have the least. – *Alfred P. Sloan Jr., General Motors chairman, addressing the Economic Club of Chicago, as reported in The New York Sun.*

Knoxville. Tenn. Journal
May 7, 1941

State Board Of Education Studies College For Negroes

NASHVILLE, May 6 (AP)—The question of providing Negroes with educational opportunities equivalent to those of the University of Tennessee will come before the State Board of Education at its session here Friday, board officials said today.

The 1941 Legislature passed an act authorizing the board to inaugurate a program which would make available post graduate courses to Negro students, and a committee of the board and the University has had the matter under consideration since.

The board also will take up for approval the budgets and personnel rosters of the six state teacher colleges under its administration. Official sources expressed the belief there would be but few appointments to the college faculties.

Edward B. Maupin of Shelbyville is expected to attend his first session as a board member. He was appointed recently to succeed the late Howard B. Shofner.

The board is composed of nine appointed members with Governor Cooper as an ex-officio member and Education Commissioner B. O. Duggan as chairman.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Groups Fight New Job Discrimination

MAY 6 - 1941

356

Kansas, Buffalo Plants Bar Negroes; Capital Store Picketed

MAY 6 - 1941

A handbill has just been issued by the Sparrow Aircraft Company, Inc., asking for "white American citizens" to register for training courses in the company's division at Wichita, Kansas, it was learned here yesterday.

This comes close on the heels of the statement made by J. H. Kindleberger, president of the North American Aviation company, who said he would hire Negroes "only as janitors" no matter how well trained.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People warned in a strong statement against continued denial of democracy to the Negro people.

MAY 6 - 1941

BUFFALO PLANT BARS NEGROES

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 5.—What appears to be a perfect example of the "vicious circle" around which Negroes seeking employment in defense industries must go has been brought out here.

After having been told by his instructor in vocational training school at Quoddy, Maine, that he was best in his machine shop class, Eugene Redding, 21, of New Rochelle, N. Y., along with six others sent his application for work to the Bell Aircraft Company in Buffalo.

Four applications were accepted by the plant. Those of Redding and Scott, another Negro youth who stood high on the instructor's list, were rejected.

Redding had forwarded to him at Quoddy from New Rochelle, first week in April, the following wire from the New York Employment service:

MAY 6 - 1941

"Don't come to Buffalo at present. Will advise when we have further openings."

D. C. STORE PICKETED BY NEGRO GROUPS

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5.—Feeling the pinch of a second picket line in five years, the Safeway grocery chain of this city is under boycott by the New Negro Alliance.

The managers of the company's store at 14 and U St., N. W. refused to hire Negroes after a delegation representing twenty organizations presented to them a peti- signed by nearly 6,000 persons

35c-1941

LOUISIANA

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

NEGROES DENIED P O. CLERK JOBS IN NEW ORLEANS

A

NEW ORLEANS, La. — No Negroes have been appointed to the New Orleans Postoffice as clerks in the past 12 years, according to a resolution adopted by the local branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees which is to be forwarded to President Roosevelt, the postmaster general and other high ranking government officials.

JUL 19 1941

According to the resolution at least 11 colored persons passed the examination in 1935, with averages ranging up to 96 percent. Since then 175 white clerks have been appointed, most of them with lower averages than the Negroes.

35C

The NAACP and the Urban League have joined hands with the NAPE in an effort to have discrimination in the postoffice done away with.

It was further charged by the NAPE that eight of the 11 Negroes have been appointed as laborers, a position which pays $500 less per year than the clerical positions. National President Lafayette Ford and G. N. T. Gray, welfare director, are both contacting postal officials in regards to the situation.

JUL 19 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

No Postal Clerks Named In 12 Years, Report Says

35c

NEW ORLEANS, July 24 (By Alvin Hill for ANP)—Charging that Negroes are being systematically denied jobs as postoffice clerks in New Orleans, the local branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employes went on record Saturday as unanimously endorsing a resolution to bring the matter to the attention of President Roosevelt, the postmaster general, and other high ranking government officials, as well as civic and welfare organizations and the press.

JUL 26 1941

No Negro has been appointed to the position of substitute postoffice clerk for nearly 12 years, although at least 11 Negroes in this city are known to have passed the civil service examination in 1935 with averages ranging from 90 to 96.5 per cent, the resolution charged, and approximately 175 white applicants, many having lower averages than the Negroes, have been appointed since that time. The resolution further said that the existing rules of civil service which permitted the appointing officer to select one out of the three highest eligibles for appointment left a loophole by which Negroes could be systematically denied jobs by prejudiced appointing officers and that this fact had been clearly demonstrated by happenings in this city during the past few years.

JUL 26 1941

Stating that copies of the resolution were being sent President Roosevelt and other high officials with the hope that the conditions here would be remedied, local officers of the alliance declared that they felt that some official action would probably result from the protest in view of the President's recent order barring discrimination against Negroes in defense industries.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Railroad Moves to Replace Pickup Drivers by Whites

DEC 13 1941

DEC 13 1941

NEW ORLEANS. — The Transport Workers Union of America, CIO, Local 206, recently received a communication for the Dennis Sheen Transfer Company, Inc., to the effect that unless colored pick-up drivers were replaced by whites within 30 days the contract with the Louisiana and Arkansas Railway-Kansas City Southern Railway Company, signed July 1, would be cancelled.

The letter from the executive department of the railway company, signed by W. N. Adams, executive general agent, stated, "We cannot afford to continue our contract with you unless you will give us . . . white drivers on our pick-up trucks." The writer alleged that "all the trucking concerns have white drivers to solicit the public, sign bills of lading and who can get the benefit of customer's telephone if they need it, "and further declared that the "pick-up and delivery service, to be satisfactorily performed, must be done with white drivers."

Union President Harry P. Turgeau stated that the union is willing to furnish men to meet every qualification except that of racial origin. "We regard the stipulation that only white drivers be used for this work to be founded solely on bias and racial prejudice," Turgeau declared.

35c-1941

MARYLAND

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

AN OPEN LETTER TO WESTERN UNION VIA POSTAL

35

An Open Letter to
EDWARD JOHNSON,
Director of Personnel,
Western Union Telegraph Co.,
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Sir:

OCT 18 1941

Last week, in a statement to an AFRO reporter you declared that your company made an error in sending out circulars to colored ministers asking them to recommend young boys to serve as messengers and added that you "had no intention at present of hiring any colored messengers."

This week, as you probably know, the Postal Telegraph Company placed six colored youths in its service as messengers because of the shortage of available help on account of the defense boom and also because the color of the skin was not as important as the service these boys could render.

No doubt the Western Union Telegraph Company is not concerned about the color of the skin of its customers when they are dropping money into the till but if business in colored neighborhoods should fall off, you would begin to feel it.

It occurs to us that if the color of the skin is of primary importance as you have stated that it is also of primary importance to colored people to spend their money for services where they can work.

OCT 19 1941

If Postal Telegraph is one of these places, as they have already demonstrated, to us Postal can do the services as well as and perhaps better than your company.

The AFRO-AMERICAN.

35c-1941

MARYLAND

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'No Jobs'--Negro Workers Barred By Bethlehem

APR 15 1941

Maryland Job Seekers Spend Carfare, Only to Get Cold Refusal at Sparrows Point Plant Where Mill Has Millions in 'Defense' Work

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BALTIMORE, Md., April 14.—"Don't blame me; if the company won't hire you men there's nothing I can do."

That's the reply that fifty Negro skilled and unskilled workers received from a company guard at Bethlehem Steel's huge Sparrows Point plant after they had stood in line for six hours in front of the company's employment office and watched this same guard call 150 white workers into the office, regardless of their place in line, to receive pink slips of paper which would certify them for employment.

These Negro workers had spent forty cents in fares to make the ten-mile trip to Sparrows Point, Md., just outside Baltimore. They had heard that the steel company was hiring men regardless of experience, at the rate of two hundred a day.

APR 15 1941

They had taken their places in line at 8:30 in the morning to wait for the office to open. In a few minutes they heard a company guard call out from the employment office: "Hey, you white fellows come in here." They saw a group of white workers fall out of line and march into the employment office, only to come out within a few minutes with pink slips which would certify them for employment. They saw this operation repeated many times during the long wait from 8:30 A. M. to 2:30 P. M. And then the company guard came out to tell them "Come back tomorrow, maybe we can do something for you. Don't blame me if the company won't hire you."

This story of how the giant Bethlehem Steel Co., with more than a billion dollars in defense contracts, refuses to hire Negroes at its Maryland plant, was told to a representative of the National Negro Congress by an unemployed Negro worker

35c-1941

MASSACHUSETTS

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Bay State AFL Parley Flays Anti-Labor Bills

35c

Urges End of Negro Bias in Jobs, Armed Forces; Demands Defeat of Vinson Bill and War Profiteering; Stresses Youth Problems

(Special to the Daily Worker)

AUG 11 1941

BOSTON, Aug. 10.—More than a dozen progressive resolutions were adopted at the 56th convention of the Massachusetts State American Federation of Labor, just ended here, while not one red-baiting or other reactionary resolution got by, although there were some efforts at red-baiting on the convention floor.

The following resolutions were passed: for the anti-lynching bill; against the poll-tax and Negro discrimination in jobs, reilef and in the armed services; for legislation and action against the Vinson and all substitute bills calling for a "cooling off" period before workers may strike to improve their conditions; for solving the employment problem in non-defense industries by labor and government; against war - profiteering and all who may delay defense production "until they make sure of their profits"; to continue to conduct campaigns for better wages and improved working conditions, "so as to lay a firm foundation for American security, unity and defense."

Other resolutions covered labor representation on defense "and other boards," "cooperation with all people and organizations in making possible genuine national defense," special legislation for the protection of women workers' health, cooperation of labor and government in the training of youth for defense jobs, with labor tackling the problems of youth."

AUG 11 1941

Nicholas P. Morrisey, of the Teamsters Union, was reelected president, Kenneth I. Taylor was reelected secretary - treasurer and legislative agent.

35c-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Ann Arbor Open Shops Ban Jobs for Negroes

FEB 3 1941

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Workers Correspondence Department:

To most people the mention of Ann Arbor, Michigan, brings to the mind the University of Michigan, football and Tom Harmon. But for the majority of the people in and around Ann Arbor who work in the factories, shops, and offices, Ann Arbor is a tough place to earn a decent living for themselves and their families.

Ann Arbor's industries are, King-Seeley Corp. which makes instruments and guages, Hoover Ball produces balls and bearings, American Broach manufactures broaches and Fram Corp. makes oil filters. Unionization activities is starting in all these plants.

The average wage in the entire auto industry is 73 cents an hour, gained through activities of the UAW-CIO, but at King-Seeley, which advertises its "high wages" the pay is only 63 cents an hour after two raises, while Fram Corp. pays less than 50 cents and International Industries starts at 40 cents without any assured increase.

NEGROES BARRED

Meanwhile the Ann Arbor industrial workers and their families have to meet the second highest cost of living in the United States and find that rent, clothing and food (especially butter, meat and eggs) are continuing to soar out of reach of his wages which remain low.

But the Ann Arbor worker's security for himself and his family is threatened by more than the rising cost of living. New conveyors have resulted in layoffs, part-time work and speedup at Fram Corp.; International is laying off many employes, while the largest layoffs, involving several hundred workers, are expected at King, Seeley in February. Thus a working in the cartridge department at Fram is employed only three weeks a month, and has to support a family on $14 a week. All these open shop conditions are stimulating the workers to join the union.

FEB 3 1941

If you are one of the thousands of Negroes in this county, rank discrimination faces you at every employment office in this non-union town, and the possibility of getting a job in local industry is practically zero. Three of the largest plants, Fram, King-Seeley, and International, employ a total of one Negro, and only as a janitor. Only unionism and the policy of the CIO will change this practice of discrimination.

A. A.

MICHIGAN

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Whites Struck When He Got Job; Now He's 'Tops'

JUN 28 1941

MUSKEGON, Mich.—(ANP)—Defense contractors who deny themselves much needed skilled Negro labor for fear that white workers will quit their jobs should take a leaf from the book of the West Michigan Steel company of this city, according to officials who have followed the case.

About a year ago the company found itself faced with a shortage of welders. A Negro, Craig Lasha, applied for a job and was given employment immediately when he proved he was an expert welder.

The white workers in the plant were incensed, although at least 10 Negroes were already working there in unskilled positions. The issue was brought to a head in the United Auto Workers (A.F.L.) local and the whites took a stand against accepting a Negro skilled worker in the plant. When the worker remained on the job, the whites walked out of the plant and closed down operation.

The president of the West Michigan Steel company then took a hand in the dispute and announced that Lasha would not be fired because of his racial identity. He defended the Negro's right to a job and announced he would stand by his colored employe. The white workers held out for two days, while the plant closed down, but finally returned to work.

Lasha continued with his work and now has been promoted to a position where he does nearly all of the finish and experimental work for the plant. Not only does he get along all right with the white workers, but he is now a member of the U.A.W.A.-A.F.L. local which sought to bar him from the job.

One other significant development occurred. The number of Negro workers in the plant has been increased from 10 to approximately 50, and no further protest has been made on the question.

JUN 28 1941

In addition to his union activities, through which he has been working with Frank Evans, a member of the U.A.W.A.-A.F.L. executive board in Cleveland, Lasha is president of the Workers Improvement league of the Greater Muskegon area. He is also regarded as one of the most popular workers in the West Michigan Steel company plant.

JUN 28 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

This Company Learned That Fear Of Negro Workers Was Unfounded

JUN 27 1941

MUSKEGON, Mich. (ANP)—Defense contractors who deny themselves much needed skilled Negro labor for fear that white workers will quit their jobs should take a leaf from the book of the West Michigan Steel company of this city, according to officials who have followed the case.

About a year ago the company found itself faced with a shortage of welders. A Negro, Craig Lash, applied for a job and was given employment immediately when he proved he was an expert welder.

The white workers in the plant were incensed, although at least 10 Negroes were already working there in unskilled positions. The issue was brought to a head in the United Auto Workers (AFL) local and the whites took a stand against accepting a Negro skilled worker in the plant. When the workers remained on the job, the whites walked out of the plant and closed down operation.

The president of the West Michigan Steel Company then took a hand in the dispute and announced that Lasha would not be fired because of his racial identity. He defended the Negro's right to a job and announced he would stand by his colored employe." The white workers held out for two days, while the plant was closed down but finally returned to work.

JUN 27 1941

Lasha continued with his work and today has been promoted to a position where he does nearly all If the finish and experimental work for the plant. Not only does he get along all right with the white workers, but he is now a member of the UAWA-AFL which sought to bar him from the job.

One other significant development occurred also. The number of Negro workers in the plant has been increased from 10 to approximately 50, and no further protest has been made on the question.

JUN 27 1941

In addition to his union activities though which he has been working with Frank Evans, a member of the UAWA-AFL executive board in Cleveland, Lasha is president of the Workers Improvement league of the Greater Muskegon area. He is also regarded as one of the most popular workers in the West Michigan Steel Company plant.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

White Company Keeps Skilled Race Worker; Now Union Likes Him

JUL 3 1941

MUSKEGON, Mich. (ANP)—Defense contractors who deny themselves much needed skilled Negro labor, for fear that white workers will quit their jobs should take a leaf from the book of the West Michigan Steel company of this city, according to officials who have followed the case.

About a year ago the company found itself faced with a shortage of welders. A Negro, Craig Lasha, applied for a job and was given employment immediately when he proved he was an expert welder.

The white workers in the plant were incensed, although at least 10 Negroes were already working there in unskilled positions. The issue was brought to a head in the United Auto Workers (AFL) local and the whites took a stand against accepting a Negro skilled worker in the plant. When the workers remained on the job, the whites walked out of the plant and closed down operation.

KEPT NEGRO EMPLOYEE

The president of the West Michigan Steel company then took a hand in the dispute and announced that Lasha would not be fired because of his racial identity. He defended the Negro's right to a job and announced he would stand by his colored employee. The white workers held out for two days, while the plant was closed down, but finally returned to work.

Lasha continued with his work and today has been promoted to a position where he does nearly all of the finish and experimental work for the plant. Not only does he get along all right with the white workers, but he is now a member of the UAWA-AFL local which sought to bar him from the job.

MORE RACE WORKERS

One other significant development occurred also. The number of Negro workers in the plant has been increased from 10 to approximately 50, and no further protest has been made on the question.

JUL 3 1941

In addition to his union activities, through which he has been working with Frank Evans, a member of the UAWA-AFL executive board in Cleveland, Lasha is president of the Workers' Improvement league of the Greater Muskegon area. He is also regarded as one of the most popular workers in the West Michigan Steel company plant.

—[illegible]red Judge

JUL 3 1941

35c-1941 MINNESOTA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Catholics Hit Job Jim Crow During Eucharistic Congress

Albright's Statement Draws Reply From Bishop Alter

ST. PAUL, Minn. — (ANP) — Joseph Albright, member of the St. Paul Trades and Labor assembly, representing the St. Peter Claver parish of St. Paul, told the Eucharistic congress employees section in the Grace Building in the Minnesota State fairgrounds, "There cannot be final solution to the problem of securing full rights for labor until all labor is included in the struggle for those rights."

JUL 1 1941

Expressly dwelling upon the Negro labor, Albright further stated, "If the survival of democracy depends on the possibility of labor to subsist on a decent scale of living, then that ability in turn will be contingent upon the sincerity with which this scale of living is sought for all, and all alike, be they black or white."

JUL 1 1941

At the end of Albright's brief but pointed remarks, which evoked tremendous applause from the packed audience of priests and laity he turned to the Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, D. D., Bishop of Toledo, who had delivered the principal address of the evening, and asked for a definite expression from the church on this question.

Albright said "Millions of Negroes in America are awaiting a word from the Catholic church regarding its stand on the matter of racial discrimination in the field of labor. Will you make such an expression now?"

In reply to the question, the bishop forcefully attacked racial discrimination in every field of human activity and especially in the ranks of labor, citing the complete brotherhood in the ritual of the Catholic communion as proof of the church's complete and thorough recognition of mankind's equality in Christ, warning, however, that good great social changes are matters of spiritual rather than material movements and must be brought about through education and understanding.

JUL 1 1941

He cited the long record of the church in its relentless war on social inequalities and pledged a continuance of the fight in increasing tempo.

The meeting was opened by the Rev. Francis Gilligan of St. Paul, and was presided over by the Most Rev. Samuel Alphonsus Stritch, D. D., archibishop of Chicago, who expressed the appreciation of the chair for Albright's remarks.

35c-1941

MISSOURI

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Jim-Crow in St. Louis Shop Hit by Unionist

FEB 10 1941

St. Louis, Mo.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee Local No. 1128, during its four years of existence has had a hard struggle to organize the workers of the Curtis Manufacturing Company, makers of pneumatic - machine and fabricating steel products because of the Jim-Crowism praticed there.

This company has been a member of the National Metal Trades Association for many years. They had been able to maintain an open shop for 83 years, until the CIO organized their plant in 1937.

At the present time some interest has been drawn around Jim Crowism and the problem of organizing the Negro workers in the plant.

FEB 10 1941

An example of Jim-Crowism is the fact that the Negroes are not allowed to drink from sanitary drinking fountains used by white workers. They are forced to change their clothes and eat their lunch in a small locker room where they also have their toilets, which is not closed-in and are not in a sanitary condition.

The company has signs posted over white workers' drinking fountain which reads, "White Men Only." This is a clear example of the "divide and rule" policy of all labor hating employers.

White workers should be guided by the words of Karl Marx, "Labor in the white skin cannot be free, so long as labor in the black skin is branded."

A UNION MAN.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TO FORCE HIRING OF SKILLED MEN ON SLUM PROJECT

NOV 1 1941

Mo 35c

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 30—Assured co-operation by Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, the local branch of the NAACP is planning, in the next few days, to formally file suit in Federal Court to force the employment of skilled Negro labor on the Carr Square Low Cost Housing Project for Negroes.

Details of the suit are being handled by the legal committee of the local branch, Attorneys Joseph L. McLemore, R. L. Witherspoon, Henry D. Espy and Roy Lowe, President S. R. Redmond states.

SAYS SKILLED WORKERS NOT AVAILABLE

Several weeks ago, at a conference held between leading members of the racial group, workers, city officials, contractors and members of the St. Louis Housing Authority in Mayor Becker's chambers in the city hall, it was protested that, despite an executive order by President Roosevelt requiring at least 3.2 percent of skilled Negro labor on government projects, a percentage that has not been met at Carr Square where no Negro skilled men have been hired, although, at the Mayor's meeting, one man was present with an up-to-date AFL bricklayers' union card.

NOV 4 1941

According to Berry Craven, secretary of the St. Louis Housing Authority, the J. E. Dunn Construction Co., which has the general contract at Carr Square, has lived up to a requirement that 35 percent of unskilled labor be Negroes, but reported that it is difficult to obtain any Negro skilled workers because most building trades unions do not admit Negroes to membership.

35c-1941

NEW JERSEY

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

N. J. Civil Service Commission Again Bars Negro From Job

JAN 4 1941

TRENTON, N. J.—For the second time Ira L. Collins of 17 Astor place, Jersey City, failed Thursday to have himself appointed a state motor vehicle inspector over objections of Motor Vehicle Commissioner Arthur W. Magee.

The New Jersey Civil Service Commission ruled that Magee's reasons for refusing to appoint Collins were ample, although Collins had earned top place in a civil service examination for the position by virtue of his rating as a disabled war veteran.

Magee testified at a hearing last November 19 that Collins lacked the business capacity to fill the position of motor vehicle inspector, the starting salary of which is $1,800 a year. He further testified that his refusal to appoint Collins was not based on race, color or creed.

The decision of the Commission resulted from Commissioner Magee's failure to include Collins among six persons appointed inspectors last August.

Some two years ago, when an earlier list of appointments failed to include Collins, the Jersey Cityite appealed directly to the State Supreme Court which subsequently upheld Magee., Following the court's decision, the State Legislature enacted a law requiring a hearing before the Civil Service Commission in instances when an appointing authority failed to appoint an eligible veteran.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Girls Crash Color Ban at N.J. Lock Factory

PASSAIC, N.J.—One more effort of defense industry employers to discriminate against colored workers was broken down this week by the placement of two girls at the Presto Lock Company at Garfield, N.J.

The young women who succeeded in obtaining employment after having been previously refused were Misses Oralee Harris and Eunice Randolph.

A representative of the Council for Youth Unity reported this week that the success of the effort to break down the discriminatory policy of the lock company was accomplished through the efforts of that organization and the CIO Union local.

Told They Were Late

The young women, on hearing that the company was seeking workers and that no experience was needed, applied for jobs on May 20. They were told that they were too late.

The incident was reported to Benjamin Humphries, chairman of the Council for Youth Unity, an organization composed of colored and white youth, who with the co-operation of Ben Gold, president of the union local, instituted an investigation that led to their placement.

JUN 2 1941

JUN 21 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TYPIST DENIED FEDERAL JOBS; CHARGES BIAS

Often Called But Never Appointed, Applicant Is Promised Action

35c

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Successful prosecution to date of a discrimination case in which a Civil Service job was at stake, was reported at the meeting of the executive committee of the local N.A.A.C.P., last week, by U. Simpson Tate, chairman of the labor committee.

Last month, Miss Lucille Holiman reported to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People office that she was certified by the Civil Service Commission as a typist and had been called for interviews seven times since June of 1940. In each instance when refused employment she was of the opinion that the refusal was because of the fact that she was colored.

In the last experience, she was told that the position had already been filled despite the fact that she was the first on the list and the first to be interviewed.

Given this information, Tate telephoned Chairman Mitchell of the Civil Service Commission, who promised an immediate investigation. Miss Holiman was called for an interview with Sorrell, chief of the certification division.

At a conference last fall, Sorrell had told representatives of the N.A.A.C.P., and the National Negro Congress that he would make every possible effort to correct specific cases of unjust and discriminatory action if they were presented to him. Miss Holiman has now been appointed in Mr. Sorrell's division.

In commenting upon the prompt action of Chairman Mitchell and Mr. Sorrell in this instance, Tate emphasized the importance of placing all the facts in such cases in the hands of the N.A.A.C.P. as soon as the element of discrimination becomes apparent.

JUN 21 1941

JUN 21 1941

35c

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Whites Threaten to Leave Mills

35c

MT. HOLLY, N.J.—A threatened strike by white workers has prevented colored from participation in another defense industry, it was learned here Monday.

Declaring that his employees raised unanimous objection and a threat of walkout, Edward P. Hulling, manager of the Northampton Textile Company, told leaders demanding employment that he would give the proposal further consideration.

Up until the depression colored workers in large numbers shared in the payroll, which is now estimated at about $12,000 monthly, but were since replaced by whites, many of whom are said to be recently naturalized foreigners.

Local citizens expect to continue their protest with a mass meeting planned soon.

JUL 19 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

White Workers Oppose Negroes

MOUNT HOLLY, N. J.—A threatened strike by white workers employed at the Northampton Textile Co., has prevented Negroes from being hired by the firm, it was revealed Monday.

It was reported that continuous demands made by Negroes resulted in Edward P. Hulling, white manager, polling white workers as to their attitude relative to working with Negroes. It was said that they decided on a walkout if Negroes were hired.

Despite the reported attitude of the whites, Negro citizens are determined to press the issue, and plan to hold a mass meeting to unite their forces.

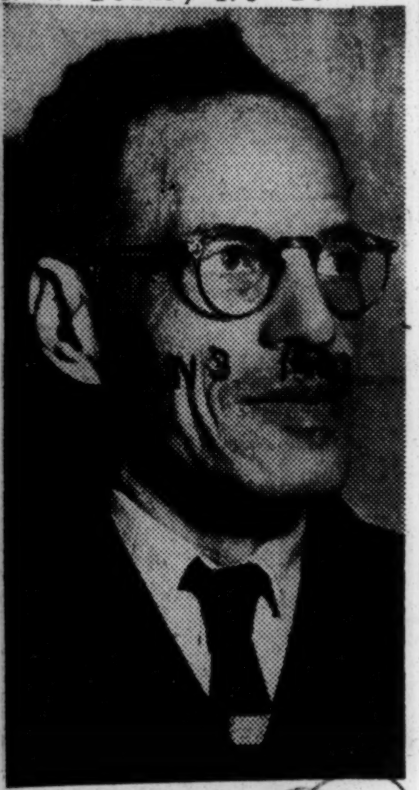
The textile firm has several defense contracts with an estimated payroll of $12,000 weekly.

JUL 19 1941

35c

35c-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.



CAPT. HUGH MULZAC

35c

JUN 3 1941

Reject Negro Sea Captain's Appeal for Job

Maritime Commission Refuses to Intercede for Hugh Mulzac

The United States Maritime Commission has no intenton of interceding in behalf of Hugh Mulzac, the Negro sea captain who for more than 20 years has held a license from the U. S. Department of Commerce declaring him a qualified master of ocean-going steamers of any size in any waters.

The National Negro Congress yesterday released a letter from Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission, in answer to a communication he had received last month from the Congress.

Insisting that the present owners and operators of the vessels "assume sole jurisdiction over the employment, assignment and promotion of its entire sea-going personnel," Admiral Land added, "the Commission therefore does not now, nor does it intend in the future, to dictate to or interfere with the established methods of private steamship owners and operators in the selection of its officers. We are unable, therefore, to be of any assistance to Mr. Mulzac."

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS

In making public its letter from Admiral Land and the U. S. Maritime Commission, the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress points out that this is not the first time Captain Mulzac's appeal to the Commission has been rejected.

"The Maritime Commission has power to regulate the practices of shipping companies and to determine whether their policies are in harmony with those of the federal government, which grants them millions of dollars a year of the taxpayers' money in the form of subsidies," the Congress statement says adding: "The Maritime Commission has the power to withhold these subsidies and to take other disciplinary action if the activities of these companies are against the interests of the government or of the people of the United States. Admiral Land has now taken the position that he cannot regulate the employment practices of these companies which discriminate against the hiring of Negro officers and mates, apparently in the belief that such actions are not against the interests of the people of the United States."

NEW YORK

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Thousands of Skilled Negro Seamen Denied Merchant Marine Jobs

Maritime Union Urges President to Stop Discriminaton by Companies Operating Federal-Owned Vessels

JUN 27 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—President Roosevelt has been asked by the National Maritime union, C. I. O., to extend his ban on racial discrimination in defense industries to the American Merchant Marine.

In a letter signed by Joseph Curran and Ferdinand Smith, president and secretary, respectively, of the union, the President was told that "Thousands of skilled Negro seamen have been refused employment on vessels owned in part or in whole by the (United States) government and operated by private companies."

As examples of prevailing practise, Curran and Smith enclosed with the communication letters from two steamship companies, the American West African Line and the American South African Line, with respect to their refusal to hire Negroes.

Both companies explained that they have no prejudice against Negro seamen but—it is against their "policy" to hire them.

"It has been stated often, and correctly so, that the merchant marine is our second line of defense. It follows, therefore, that personnel in the merchant marine should be given the same consideration as is afforded other workers engaged in national defense industries."

The letter related, as a sample of its experience with steamship operators, discussion between the union and the American West African Line.

"About two years ago," it reads, "the union supplied members of our union for the stewards departments of the vessels of the American West African Line. At that time, the company refused to employ colored members, using the same argument as they now use in this letter with regard to colored members of the deck department.

"The National Maritime union at that time was insistent that the company accept colored stewards as supplied and refused to accept the company's argument. Subsequent events proved that the union's position was correct, which the company later admitted.

"Upon receipt of this attached letter, we called the company's attention to their arguments submitted two years ago to support their refusal to accept colored members for their stewards departments.

"The company says that the case is not similar because responsibility is not as great in the stewards department as it is in the deck department. The company says that the krooboys, whom they carry on the African run, do not work in the stewards department but work on deck. Therefore, the company says, the question raised with regard to their refusal to accept colored men on deck would not necessarily arise in the case of the stewards department.

"The union pointed out that there is no basis in fact for the company's contention, since they are anticipating a condition which cannot be substantiated by any past record. In other words, they are supposing that a situation will develop which will prove detrimental to the interests of the company or the proper operation of their vessels.

"The only conclusion that we can draw from the company's argument is that their position is one of rank discrimination, although the company is attempting to use subtlety in their endeavor to hide this phase of their position.

"This discrimination does not stop at privately-owned companies but extends even to vessels built by the United States Maritime commission which are either chartered or leased to private companies.

"There is, on the one hand, a great cry about the shortage of skilled seamen, while on the other hand, thousands of skilled Negro seamen have been refused employment on vessels owned in part or in whole by the government and operated by private companies.

"These skilled seamen are available and only want an opportunity to lend their skill, as bona fide seamen, to the national defense effort in the manning of ships in all ratings for which they are qualified.

"We feel certain that an extension to the United States Maritime commission of your instructions to the office of production management, would have the effect of breaking down discrimination against Negroes and other minorities among sea-faring men and would result in the strengthening of the 'second line of defense'—the American merchant marine—by having available skilled, competent, seamen for all departments aboard ships."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

A NEGRO ON THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

(The New York Age)

JUN 28 1941

Following a conference between President Roosevelt and a committee headed by Edgar Brown, head of the United Government Employees, it was announced in Washington last week that a Negro would be appointed to an executive capacity on the Federal Civil Service commission The recently passed Ramspeck Civil Service bill forbids discrimination in appointments to civil service jobs because of race.

It is expected that the new appointee will report and investigate cases of alleged discrimination, and in this way it is hoped that the un-democratic practice will be broken up.

For a long time The Age has urged that the best way to break up the biased attitude of the Civil Service commission and other federal agencies was through the appointment of capable Negroes to these boards and agencies, and the newly inaugurated policy of the President in respect to these civilian agencies is a step in the right direction. We only hope that it will be extended to the War and Navy departments.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Protest Lumping Race With Italians, Germans As Un-wanted for Jobs

NEW YORK.—it has been reported to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the Anaconda Wire and Steel Company of Hastings, N. Y. has an open order with the Yonkers office of the New York State Employment Service asking for laborers with the following qualifications:

AUG 7 1941

Laborers—single men, 20-40 years; married men, 25-40 years, strong build, must weigh over 150 lbs. No ITALIANS, GERMANS, or NEGROES. Salary, 50c hour, raise in 3 months to 73c hour."

The NAACP immediately wired Richard Brockway, NYSES director, saying, "We vigorously protest not only the discrimination but the bracketing of Negroes with nationals of Germany and Italy with which the United States is virtually at war. We call upon NYSES immediately to act and to advise us of action taken."

AUG 7 1941

Mr. Brockway called the NAACP New York office on receipt of the wire to say that he is sending a representative to see if the report is true and if so that changes be made.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Mayor Issues Plea on Job Discrimination

350 — N.Y.

Employment Agencies Asked to Eliminate Prejudice Bars

Mayor LaGuardia announced yesterday that he had appealed to 50 employment agencies licensed by the city, requesting assistance in eliminating discrimination against job seekers because of race, creed color or national origin.

AUG 10 1941

He said License Commissioner Paul Moss had reported that many complaints received by him by workers indicated a great deal of discrimination shown by the agencies and employers.

In his appeal to the employment agencies, the Mayor said:

"There is evidence available that workers have been barred from positions soleley because of considerations of race, creed, color or national origing to the detriment of the workers' morale and national unity."

MAYOR MAKES PLEA

The Mayor pointed out that the agencies could do a great deal to "correct these conditions."

"Therefore," wrote the Mayor, "I appeal to all employers, whether or not they use the service of employment agencies, to permit wherever possible equality in opportunity in employment of all minority groups in our city.

AUG 10 1941

"Our City owes much of its greatness to the impact of diverse races, religious and national strains upon each other. Each minority group has an important contribution to make. It is a contradiction of the American way of life to deny economic equality just as it would be to deny political equality, to any group because of race, creed, color or national strain."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Group Aids Union Drive on Kent

63-9

National Congress Helps Cleaners Organize Big Union

N.Y.

"The last stronghold of reaction" in the cleaning and dyeing industry in New York, the Kent Stores, Inc., is located at 1745 Cross Island Boulevard, Whitestone, L. I., with 135 chain stores in Long Island, Brooklyn and Westchester Co., and 96 per cent of whose 400 workers are Negroes is likely to be "cracked" soon, according to a statement just issued by the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress.

AUG 9 1941

The statement, signed by Hope Stevens, chairman, and William Gaulden, secretary of the trade union advisory committee of the Manhattan Council, declares that the Congress is cooperating with the Cleaners and Dyers Union to organize the workers of the Kent Stores, Inc.

The National Negro Congress entered the fight when notified recently that working conditions in the company's cleaning plant were "horrible." The statement declares that, wishing to find out for itself the exact nature of conditions in the plant, the Congress instituted an investigation of its own.

"There are about 400 workers at the plant, of which 96 per cent are Negroes and mostly Negro women," the Congress statement says. "No Negro clerks are employed in the plant or stores, although many shops are in Negro neighborhoods. Negro women are paid 36 cents an hour as pressers, without extra pay for overtime."

The minimum for skilled pressers in union shops is from 50 to 75 cents an hour, with time and a quarter for overtime, the statement points out, whereas Kent Stores, Inc., has made the 36 cents an hour wage "more or less" its wage scale.

The statement declares also that practically every woman worker in the plant bears a mark on her arm or hand from injuries on the job.

AUG 11 1941

One of the women who suffered injuries in the plant was a Mrs. Lillian Parker who, shortly thereafter, joined the Cleaners and Dyers Union. When she tried to get other workers in the plant to join the union, Mrs. Parker was discharged. It was this incident which brought conditions in the Kent Stores, Inc., sharply to the attention of the union and the National Negro Congress. Their joint pledge to "crack" Kent Stores, Inc., followed.

NAACP FINDS EFFORTS TO STOP DISCRIMINATION

Have Not Been Carried Far Enough For Desired Results

Savannah Tribune
Savannah Ga.

New York, N. Y.—Contrary to optimistic stories sent out from the Office of Production Management by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, chief, Negro Employment and Training branch, Labor Division, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People learned last week that Brewster Aeronautical Corporation with plants in Long Island City, N. Y., and at Newark, airport, N. J., has made no steps to drop its color bars. Brewster was among the plants named in the [illegible] OPM release as having hired a crew of sheet-metal workers.

The aircraft company which is making planes for the Navy has employed five Negro workers but as sheet-metal assistants [illegible] reported. It is also rumored that one of these assistants was recently fired.

The NAACP is in possession of three affidavits attesting to the company's refusal to hire Negro workers.

Most flagrant refusal is in the case of Edmond Van Osten, 31, of Brooklyn. N. Y., who has nine years of experience as a sheet-metal worker with the William P. Gaynor company. Van Osten was sent by the New York State Employment Service to the Brewster Plant in Long Island City the week of July 23 where he applied for sheet-metal work.

According to Van Osten's affidavit, he was interviewed at the plant by a Mr. Framepton who told him there were no openings for sheet-metal workers. Van Osten said he saw Framepton hire about 35 or 40 white men for this job. Van Osten then asked for a job as sheet--metal helper, but was told by Framepton that white workers did not like to work with colored. He offered the experienced craftsman a job as porter.

Van Osten returned to the plant last week on advice from the Employment Service and was told by Framepton that he would not hire any colored workers.

Van Osten also said that while refusing him work, Brewster hired a south Eureopean who had only his second citizenship papes and had difficulty in reading the blueprint.

The second case brought to the NAACP last week is that of John J. Woods, 22, of Yonkers, N. Y. with 400 hours of special training in aircraft riveting. Woods completed his course two months ago at Saunders Training school, Yonkers, where the instructors were all Brewster employees. In spite of this, Woods' application was turned down last month by Brewster on the ground that there was no need for riveters. Woods learned later from his school principal that several riveters had been hired from the school after his application was refused. Woods' second attempt to get work last week also failed.

Oliver Ming, 21 of New York City has both training and experience. He has a certificate from Manhattan high school where he specialized in airplane and engine mechanics and a certificate from the same school for a course in emergency training which he took last summer. In addition he worked for a year at LaGuardia field as Junior Aircraft Assistant. Twice Ming has applied at Brewster's Long Island plant for employment, once a year and a half ago, once on Thursday, July 31. Both times he was told there were no openings, in spite of the fact that there are a number of graduates from Manhattan Hi school whom he knows personally are working now at the plant.

The NAACP declared that if all the reports sent out by Dr. Weaver on behalf of the O. P. M. are like the Brewster case, the OPM is attempting to plant a rosy picture of a dark situation.

35c-1941

NEW YORK

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Albany Bills Are Aimed At Jim-Crow Employers

Several of the Proposed Measures, Submitted by Negro Manhattan Democrat, Are Viewed Dubiously by Labor

By S. W. Gerson
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

ALBANY, Jan. 22.—The fight against Jim Crow in New York employment advanced another step today with a brace of anti-discrimination bills in the legislative hopper. The measures were introduced last night by Assemblyman William L. Andrews, Negro Democrat from Harlem.

While some of the Andrews' measures will undoubtedy be viewed dubiously by organized labor, their general tendency reflects the growing state - wide opposition to discrimination against Negroes, particularly by public utilities.

One bill provides that public utilities must maintain a merit system of employment, make public announcement of vacancies and rating of applications and must have eligible lists like the city and state civil service.

Another bill would make it a misdemeanor for any person controlling appointments to the civil service to discriminate against persons because of race, creed or color. Buttressing that, a third Andrews' measure would require appointing officers in the state or city who pass over an eligible applicant in favor of a person lower on an eligible list to file a sworn certificate that the discrimination was not because of race, creed or color.

Of more immediate interest, however, is another Andrews bill providing for an investigation of job discrimination on contracts with state and municipal corporations.

Labor objections will undoubtedly be voiced this year as last to three other Andrews bills, which, while intended to attack discrimination gives the state certain new powers against trade unions.

One such bill is the Andrews proposal that no public utility may sign a contract with a union unless the state labor relations board certifies that the labor organization does not discriminate against anyone because of race, color or creed.

Labor representatives in Albany quickly pointed out that progressive local unions, yoked by "lily-white" clauses in their international constitutions would be unfairly penalized as a result. The net effect, they add, will be to widen the breach between organized white workers and unorganized Negro workers.

Another Andrews measure provides that the term "labor organization" in the eyes of the law shall mean only such organizations which do not discriminate because of race, creed or color.

Still another bill would make it a misdemeanor for a union officer having an agreement with a utility to confine employment to members of his union if the union discriminates against certain persons.

One union representative on Capitol Hill made pointed but friendly criticisms of the measure to the Daily Worker.

"The Andrews bills give unwarranted powers of interference with the internal organization of labor unions to the state," he said. "Mr. Andrews' objectives are good. But they can best be reached not by legislation but by effective work of progressives inside the unions to break down the anti-labor barrier of Jim Crow."

SEEK HOSPITAL

While Assemblyman Andrews was presenting his measure, other representatives of Harlem were equally busy in advancing the fight for a hospital in the eastern portion of the area.

Senator Charles Muzzicato and Assemblym : Hamlet O. Catenaccio, both East Harlem Republicans elected with American Labor Party support, introduced a bill empowering New York City to appropriate $7,050,000 to construct a 500-bed hospital for the East Harlem-Yorkville area.

The sum is to be obtained from the $18,000,000 surplus acquried by the city through the sales tax, according to the bill.

The area in question roughly extends from 77th Street to about 116th Street, the East River to Park Avenue.

Demand for such a hospital has been widespre((in East Harlem and has been voiced consistently by the Harlem Legislative conference, a neighborhood feedration led by Representative Vito Marcantonio.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Brooklynites Fight Five And Ten Job Bias

JAN 3 1941

New York, Jan., (CNA)— A joint delegation from the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress and the Brooklyn Youth Federation this week met with the management of the Woolworth 5 and 10 cent store at Fulton St. and Nostrand Avenue to demand the employment of Negro sales girls without delay.

Malcolm Martin, chairman of the Congress, and Patricia Williams, chairman of the Federation insisted that the store put on a number of Negro girls. They showed a survey which had previously been conducted that at least 50 per cent of the Woolworth patronage came from our people living in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area.

Negotiations are continuing with Woolworth to establish a policy of employment which will give our youth a living wage in places where they and their families spend their money.

Dorothy Funn, Executive Secretary of the congress, and Steve Kingston, veteran civic leader, pointed out that promises will not satisfy the Negro people of Brooklyn. Jobs in these stores will be the only satisfactory answer to the just demands of Negro youth for jobs.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

3 Factories Refuse Jobs To Race Men

Claim Fear of Internal Strife Between Races

FEB 15 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Any doubt that aeroplane factories holding large defense orders are discriminating against Negroes in the employment of new workers was dispelled here last week as the result of a comprehensive survey of factories in the New York Urban League.

In a memoradum to the National Urban League, Charles A. Collier industrial secretary of the New York branch, related his many discouraging experiences over a period of six months in attempting to convince airplane manufacturers that the use of available skilled Negro labor is not only possible but imperative if the defense program is to proceed on schedule.

Mr. Collier's interest in the discouraging, but far from hopeless situation was first aroused in July of last year, when the following item appeared in the New York Daily News:

"FACTORIES HUNTING SKILLED WORKERS"

"A severe lack of skilled factory workers, so acute that scouts are being sent to look for suitable applicants, was reported by Frank S. Hubbard, vice-president of the Brewster Aeronautical Corp. Speaking at a luncheon of Queens manufacturers in Long Island City, Hubbard declared, 'We don't know what we are going to do for manpower. The problem becomes more acute all the time."

Upon reading this statement, Mr. Collier promptly wrote to Mr. Hubbard, asking him to confer on the question of the company's attitude and policy on employing trained Negro workers.

He also called Mr. J. R. Hunt, Jr., of the Brewster Company's personnel department, and acquainted him with the fact that there are a number of trained Negro aviation mechanics available in New York City, including a dozen or more who had graduated from the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades.

Mr. Hunt admitted that no Negroes were employed by his company. However he insisted, at the same time, that there was no company policy against the employment of Negroes.

MANY GERMANS EMPLOYED

He said that objections to working with Negroes undoubtedly would come from the men already in the plant, yet admitting that about three-fourths of the workers in the plant were of German extraction and intimated that they might be particularly averse to the introduction of skilled Negro mechanics.

ONE NEGRO AMONG 2400!

A second company holding one of the government's large defense program orders for aircraft, and similarly discriminating openly against trained Negro applicants, is the Republic Aviation Corporation of Farmingdale, L. I. Mr. Collier, in his report, stated that of 2,400 persons employed at this plant only one—a chauffeur—is a Negro.

Mr. Collier visited the plant and immediately conferred there with Mr. William L. Wilson, Republic's director of public relations, informing him that trained Negro aviation mechanics were available for employment and urged that he use them in the expanded plant wherever possible.

Mr. Wilson immediately expressed doubt that such a step could be taken, say that he feared white workers in the plant would object if Negroes were employed. The company, he stated, did not want any friction or dissatisfaction among its workers which would interfere with efficient production on defense orders.

BARRED FROM TRAINING

A month later, press announcements stated that the Republic Corporation was beginning a program to train 8,000 new aircraft workers who would be employed immediately upon successful completion of their training courses.

With reference to the suggestion that Negroes be admitted to the new training program, Mr. Wilson said that since the persons to be trained were to receive jobs in the plant, Negro applicants for training would not be employed in view of the attitude of the department heads.

OTHER INVESTIGATIONS

The New York Urban League is now engaged in a similar investigation of the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation at Bethpage, L. I. This corporation, which supplies airships for the Navy and Marines, is in complete accord with other aviation plants on Long Island in excluding Negro workers.

All letters and telephone calls to officals of the Grumman Company have as yet gone unanswered, however, and it has not even been possible to secure an interviw on the matter with a responsible official.

35c-1941

NEW YORK

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Albany Bills Are Aimed At Jim-Crow Employers

Several of the Proposed Measures, Submitted by Negro Manhattan Democrat, Are Viewed Dubiously by Labor

By S. W. Gerson
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

ALBANY, Jan. 22.—The fight against Jim Crow in New York employment advanced another step today with a brace of anti-discrimination bills in the legislative hopper. The measures were introduced last night by Assemblyman William L. Andrews, Negro Democrat from Harlem.

While some of the Andrews' measures will undoubtedy be viewed dubiously by organized labor, their general tendency reflects the growing state - wide opposition to discrimination against Negroes, particularly by public utilities.

One bill provides that public utilities must maintain a merit system of employment, make public announcement of vacancies and rating of applications and must have eligible lists like the city and state civil service.

Another bill would make it a misdemeanor for any person controlling appointments to the civil service to discriminate against persons because of race, creed or color. Buttressing that, a third Andrews' measure would require appointing officers in the state or city who pass over an eligible applicant in favor of a person lower on an eligible list to file a sworn certificate that the discrimination was not because of race, creed or color.

Of more immediate interest, however, is another Andrews bill providing for an investigation of job discrimination on contracts with state and municipal corporations.

Labor objections will undoubtedly be voiced this year as last to three other Andrews bills, which, while intended to attack discrimination gives the state certain new powers against trade unions.

One such bill is the Andrews proposal that no public utility may sign a contract with a union unless the state labor relations board certifies that the labor organization does not discriminate against anyone because of race, color or creed.

Labor representatives in Albany quickly pointed out that progressive local unions, yoked by "lily-white" clauses in their international constitutions, would be unfairly penalized as a result. The net effect, they add, will be to widen the breach between organized white workers and unorganized Negro workers.

Another Andrews measure provides that the term "labor organization" in the eyes of the law shall mean only such organizations which do not discriminate because of race, creed or color.

Still another bill would make it a misdemeanor for a union officer having an agreement with a utility to confine employment to members of his union if the union discriminates against certain persons.

One union representative on Capitol Hill made pointed but friendly criticisms of the measure to the Daily Worker.

"The Andrews bills give unwarranted powers of interference with the internal organization of labor unions to the state," he said. "Mr. Andrews' objectives are good. But they can best be reached not by legislation but by effective work of progressives inside the unions to break down the anti-labor barrier of Jim Crow."

SEEK HOSPITAL

While Assemblyman Andrews was presenting his measure, other representatives of Harlem were equally busy in advancing the fight for a hospital in the eastern portion of the area.

Senator Charles Muzzicato and Assemblyman Hamlet O. Catenaccio, both East Harlem Republicans elected with American Labor Party support, introduced a bill empowering New York City to appropriate $7,050,000 to construct a 500-bed hospital for the East Harlem-Yorkville area.

The sum is to be obtained from the $18,000,000 surplus acquried by the city through the sales tax, according to the bill.

The area in question roughly extends from 77th Street to about 116th Street, the East River to Park Avenue.

Demand for such a hospital has been widespread in East Harlem and has been voiced consistently by the Harlem Legislative conference, a neighborhood feedration led by Representative Vito Marcantonio.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Brooklynites Fight Five And Ten Job Bias

JAN 3 1941

New York, Jan., (CNA)— A joint delegation from the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress and the Brooklyn Youth Federation this week met with the management of the Woolworth 5 and 10 cent store at Fulton St. and Nostrand Avenue to demand the employment of Negro sales girls without delay.

Malcolm Martin, chairman of the Congress, and Patricia Williams, chairman of the Federation insisted that the store put on a number of Negro girls. They showed a survey which had previously been conducted that at least 50 per cent of the Woolworth patronage came from our people living in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area.

Negotiations are continuing with Woolworth to establish a policy of employment which will give our youth a living wage in places where they and their families spend their money.

Dorothy Funn, Executive Secretary of the congress, and Steve Kingston, veteran civic leader, pointed out that promises will not satisfy the Negro people of Brooklyn. Jobs in these stores will be the only satisfactory answer to the just demands of Negro youth for jobs.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

3 Factories Refuse Jobs To Race Men

Claim Fear of Internal Strife Between Races

FEB 15 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Any doubt that aeroplane factories holding large defense orders are discriminating against Negroes in the employment of new workers was dispelled here last week as the result of a comprehensive survey of factories in the New York Urban League.

In a memoradum to the National Urban League, Charles A. Collier industrial secretary of the New York branch, related his many discouraging experiences over a period of six months in attempting to convince airplane manufacturers that the use of available skilled Negro labor is not only possible but imperative if the defense program is to proceed on schedule.

Mr. Collier's interest in the discouraging, but far from hopeless, situation was first aroused in July of last year, when the following item appeared in the New York Daily News:

"FACTORIES HUNTING SKILLED WORKERS"

"A severe lack of skilled factory workers, so acute that scouts are being sent to look for suitable applicants, was reported by Frank S. Hubbard, vice-president of the Brewster Aeronautical Corp. Speaking at a luncheon of Queens manufacturers in Long Island City, Hubbard declared, 'We don't know what we are going to do for manpower. The problem becomes more acute all the time.'"

Upon reading this statement, Mr. Collier promptly wrote to Mr. Hubbard, asking him to confer on the question of the company's attitude and policy on employing trained Negro workers.

He also called Mr. J. R. Hunt, Jr., of the Brewster Company's personnel department, and acquainted him with the fact that there are a number of trained Negro aviation mechanics available in New York City, including a dozen or more who had graduated from the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades.

Mr. Hunt admitted that no Negroes were employed by his company. However he insisted, at the same time, that there was no company policy against the employment of Negroes.

MANY GERMANS EMPLOYED

He said that objections to working with Negroes undoubtedly would come from the men already in the plant, yet admitting that about three-fourths of the workers in the plant were of German extraction and intimated that they might be particularly averse to the introduction of skilled Negro mechanics.

ONE NEGRO AMONG 2400!

A second company holding one of the government's large defense program orders for aircraft, and similarly discriminating openly against trained Negro applicants, is the Republic Aviation Corporation of Farmingdale, L. I. Mr. Collier, in his report, stated that of 2,400 persons employed at this plant only one—a chauffeur—is a Negro.

Mr. Collier visited the plant and immediately conferred there with Mr. William L. Wilson, Republic's director of public relations, informing him that trained Negro aviation mechanics were available for employment and urged that he use them in the expanded plant wherever possible.

Mr. Wilson immediately expressed doubt that such a step could be taken, say that he feared white workers in the plant would object if Negroes were employed. The company, he stated, did not want any friction or dissatisfaction among its workers which would interfere with efficient production on defense orders.

BARRED FROM TRAINING

A month later, press announcements stated that the Republic Corporation was beginning a program to train 8,000 new aircraft workers who would be employed immediately upon successful completion of their training courses.

With reference to the suggestion that Negroes be admitted to the new training program, Mr. Wilson said that since the persons to be trained were to receive jobs in the plant, Negro applicants for training would not be employed in view of the attitude of the department heads.

OTHER INVESTIGATIONS

The New York Urban League is now engaged in a similar investigation of the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation at Bethpage, L. I. This corporation, which supplies airships for the Navy and Marines, is in complete accord with other aviation plants on Long Island in excluding Negro workers.

All letters and telephone calls to officals of the Grumman Company have as yet gone unanswered, however, and it has not even been possible to secure an interviw on the matter with a responsible official.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Colored Denied Skilled Jobs on N.Y. Bus Lines

MAR 2 2 1941

NEW YORK — Although State law forbids public utilities to deny employment to persons because of their race, colored men are excluded from all but menial jobs by New York's bus companies whose 3,500 employees are now on strike.

MAR 2 2 1941

Of this number, there are only sixteen colored employees who work in the various garages of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Company. Except for one stock room supply clerk, who makes $28.50 a week, and one placer, who gets 75 cents an hour, they are all cleaners, working at the lowest rate of pay.

Ask Chance to Advance

One of the Transport Workers' Union's demands in the negotiations which led to the strike was for regular promotional opportunities for its colored members. The sixteen employees are all upnion members and some of them are highly skilled but have little chance at present for advancement.

Following the 1935 riots in Harlem, Mayor LaGuardia's special commission investigating its cause found job discrimination to be a primary cause and reported in July, 1936: "The Fifth Avenue Coach Company is so fixed in its policy of exclusion of colored men from employment that it refuses even to discuss the question."

In 1937, however, at a meeting of the officers of the two major companies and Governor Lehman's Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Population, charges of discrimination were denied by John E. McCarthy vice president of the Fifth Avenue company.

MAR 2 2 1941

The Transport Workers' Union then sent large numbers of colored men to the company to apply for jobs os drivers, but not one was even given a trial

---

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

NY Assembly Bills Bar Job Jim Crow

~~MAR 1 4 1941~~

35C

Albany, N. Y. — The judiciary committee of the New York State Assembly held a hearing here on March 4 on eleven bills which deal with discrimination against Negroes in New York State particularly with discrimination in employment.

Some of the bills introduced by Assemblyman William T. Andrews, were aimed at discrimination in the civil service, in public works employment, and public utilities employment. Three would deny to lily-white labor unions the right to collective bargaining.

Among the numerous organizatoins supporting the bills was the NAACP, which was represented by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary. Mr. Wilkins cited the predicament of the Negro in New York State as revealed by the report of a special commission appointed by the legislature. He charged that the large industries of the state and huge public utilities (one of which employs more persons than the state of New York) maintain lily-white employment policies. He also decried the denial of employment to Negroes by Ney York plants filling national defense contracts.

MAR 1 4 1941

The NAACP executive disagreed sharply with spokesmen for the C. I. O. unions, the Communist party, and the National Negro Congress who endorsed all of the bills except those which would deny to labor unions the right of collective bargaining if those unions barred Negroes from employment.

Mr. Wilkins declared that there was no difference to the Negro in being barred from employment by corporations and being barred from the job by a lily-white union.

It is the feeling here that at least eight of the bills have a good chance of being passed at the present session.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

JOBS on the BUS LINES

Contract Signed

April 19, 1941

Goal: 100 Drivers. 70 Mechanics

MAY 3 - 1941

Score:

Drivers	0
Mechanics	0
Mechanics Helpers	5

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Race Chemist Finds Plants Want Men But Not Black Men

JUN 5 1941

NEW YORK CITY — "We're good for dying—but how do we live," asks Fitzgerald Bramwell, a Negro chemical engineer, in a recent issue of Friday. Bramwell is a graduate of Cooper Union. He is highly trained in a profession now vitally needed in defense. Yet, though he has tried at the many plants where chemical engineers are in great demand, he is not wanted.

In his article in FRIDAY Magazine, Bramwell, who is thirty-two years old, physically and mentally fit for the practice of his profession, points out that he has trudged from plant to plant where in print and over the radio the executives have pleaded for trained help.

Bramwell dwells on the ironic fact that the "democracy' of the executives who are busily issuing statements about the "sacrifices" necessary for democracy is curiously "color-bound." It draws the color line when it comes to hiring competent Negroes for any jobs outside the most menial.

JIM CROW KING

He names the Sperry Gyroscope Company as one which bars Negroes. Among the airplane companies he mentions Wright Aeronautical, Vultee Aircraft and Brewster Aircraft as firms which refuse jobs to Negroes. But these firms are only a few practicing the policy of the color line.

As Bramwell says in his FRIDAY article, "Jim Crow is King. Otherwise why should the color of a man's skin bar him from job opportunities? We are ready to fight to free the oppressed. But to us this also means liberation of America's Negro population which lives today under the bonds of a Fascism as deliberate as any Hitler has imposed on any conquered nation. Our Fight Is Right Here."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

SLRB BARS COLOR LINE

Rejects Plea for Vote by Non-Orientals in Restaurant

JUN 17 1941

Asserting that the "public policy of the State frowns upon discrimination or differentiation based upon race, color, creed or religion," the State Labor Relations Board rejected yesterday a union petition for an election among 'non-Oriental" employes of the world Chinese-American Restaurant, 2387 Seventh Avenue.

The board held that the petition, filed by the Bartenders and Restaurant Employes Union, Local 386, A. F. of L., did not argue that the line of cleavage should be drawn along the lines of functional difference or collective bargaining experience, but solely on the basis of differentiation between Oriental and non-Oriental workers.

"The board will not be a party to establishing a bargaining unit based solely upon racial distinctions." the decision said.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Race Bus Drivers Getting Runaround

JUL 3 1941

NEW YORK—(C)—The nine young Negro men, who recently passed examinations qualifying them to drive busses on New York streets, feel that they are being given the runaround by the Fifth Ave. Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Corp., according to statements made by three of them this week, Hiawatha Lynn, 29, Eddie Gordon, 31, and Elmer O. Haney, 37.

Officials of the bus companies, however, asserted that there was no justification for the men's suspicions and that the companies are living up to their agreement with the United Negro Bus Strike Committee and the Transport Workers Union. (This agreement signed April 19th provided for hiring Negroes to the extent of 17 per cent of all workers of the company's employ.

The nine men took their physical examination May 20th in the Company's office at 650 West 132nd Street. Immediately, thereafter, they were each given 7 days training of 10 hours each at actual bus driving.

Mr. Gordon, former Olympic and world broad-jump champion, said yesterday that inquires at the company's offices brought the response that the first 25 men taken on would include the nine Negro applicants on the waiting list. A member of the United Negro Bus Association said later that there is a possibility that if the Transport Workers Union is granted the eight-hour day for which it bargained following the recent strike a few Negro drivers may be taken on within a month.

JUL 3 1941

35c-1941

NEW YORK

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Racial Discrimination Seen

Negroes Find Difficulty in Obtaining Jobs in Airplane Plants

FEB 7 1941

To the Editor of The New York Times:

When racial discrimination becomes so flagrant as to provoke an appeal to the Legislature by Governor Lehman to remedy it by the enactment of laws, it may be assumed that the situation is a grave one indeed.

I do not believe the general public is aware of the conditions which face the Negro seeking employment. For I cannot bring myself to admit that a majority of the people of America condone the denial of the right of any of its citizens to earn an honest living.

The social implications of the exclusion of Negroes from industry are of course obvious. Because of their inability to get work they are condemned to continue as recipients of relief and thereby increase the tax burden. Under these conditions the Negro tends to become a perpetual pauper and gradually loses the urge to work. On Negro youth the effect of this exclusion is particularly devastating. It dries up ambition, stimulates antisocial attitudes and is one of the primary causes for the high rate of delinquency in Negro neighborhoods.

FEB 7 1941

The excuses which the great aviation plants in the metropolitan area offer for the rigid exclusion of Negroes are of the flimsiest character. They contend that white men will not work with Negroes, notwithstanding the fact that literally thousands of Negroes work with white men in the automobile industry in Detroit, in the rubber industry in Akron, in iron and steel in Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Gary.

Many of the young white men employed in aviation plants have attended the public schools with Negro young men, have been members of the same athletic teams and have had harmonious association in many other activities.

Negro graduates from the Metropolitan High School for Aviation Trades have presented themselves for employment together with their white classmates and have seen these classmates quickly taken into the plants while they were rejected.

In the classes taught in the Hempstead, L. I., public schools by foremen of one of the large plants, a dozen or so Negro boys were certified with scores of white boys as ready to take positions as apprentice mechanics, but the manager of the State Employment Office at Hempstead was instructed by plant officials not to refer these Negro boys for employment.

I submit that this attitude is not only undemocratic but is inimical to the best interest of the State and the nation. It is a cruel handicap laid on the Negro in his struggle to live decently. It is a repudiation of those ideals of democracy which America professes to cherish.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Smashing The Color Line

35c
NY

Evidently there is more than one way to smash the color line. Where petition, persuasion, logic and reason fail, there still remains another weapon, the picket line. It was this method which finally caused the New York City bus lines to capitulate to the demand of Negroes for opportunity to work as chauffeurs and in the machine shops of the great New York Omnibus Company and the Fifth Avenue Coach Company. Carrying thousands of Negro passengers each day to and from their work, the bus companies for over a decade had remained deaf to the pleas of Negro citizens to give Negroes a chance to work on a level above that of bus cleaners, and to qualify for other positions open to all races and nationalities save Negroes.

JUN 6 - 1941

And finally, when all other methods failed, Negroes under the dynamic and courageous leadership of the Reverend A. Clayton Powell, Jr., distinguished son of one of America's leading clergyman, invoked the picket line. On the principal street corners where the busses stopped to pick up Negro passengers, scores of earnest men and women pleaded with their kinsmen to walk rather than submit to unfair discrimination.

JUN 6 1941

Opportunity

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

New York Governor Signs Anti-Bias Employment Bill

MAY 3 - 1941

35c

Law Provides Penalty For Refusing To Hire Workers Based on Race or Color—Civic Groups Now Have New Weapon To Fight Job Bias.

MAY 3 - 1941

ALBANY, N. Y., May 1—(ANP)—New York took the initiative in outlawing employment discrimination in defense industries when Gov. Herbert Lehman signed the Mahoney bill, Friday, penalizing such action on the basis of race, color or creed. Meanwhile leaders and others who demonstrated their interest in the various anti-bias bills that were presented before the legislature this year hailed the governor's courage in "taking the bull by the horns."

The new law reads as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation engaged to any extent whatsoever in the production, manufacture or distribution of military or naval material, equipment or supplies for the state of New York or for the federal government to refuse to employ any person in any capacity on account of the race, creed or color of such person."

A penalty of not less than $50 nor more than $500 is provided in the measure for its violation.

In signing the bill, Governor Lehman attached a memorandum in which he recalled that portion of his message at the opening session of the legislature in which he asked for a curb on such discrimination. In the message he asserted that racial discrimination weakens the foundation of democracy. He now commented: "I am happy to give this bill my approval."

MAY 3 - 1941

Signature of the governor on this measure has placed in the hands of those many organizations who have been fighting for jobs for Negroes a new weapon with which to carry forth the struggle.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Woolworth's, N.Y. Will Not Hire Negroes

JUN 14 1941

NEW YORK.—Stating that the hiring of Negroes in the Woolworth store at Fulton and Nostrand avenues in the heart of the Negro district of Brooklyn is a social problem, H. Hawkins, personnel director of the Woolworth corporation, told a delegation from metropolitan youth groups that the store would not take the lead in employing Negro clerks. "We won't hire them unless the other stores do," the official said.

A drive against the discriminatory policy of the store has been carried on for more than a month by the local youth council of the N.A.A.C.P. together with organizations. Hawkins stated that the discrimination was being carried on with the full knowledge of the Woolworth corporation. Youth groups here plan an organized drive to win jobs with the chain.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Harlem's Woolworth Store Declines To Lead In Negro Help

JUN 14 1941

NEW YORK CITY—Stating that the hiring of Negroes in the Woolworth store at Fulton and Nostrand Avenues in the heart of the Negro district of Brooklyn is a social problem, H. Hawkins, personnel director of the Woolworth Corporation, told a delegation from metropolitan youth groups that the store would not take lead in employing Negro clerks. "We won't hire them unless the other stores do," the official said.

A drive against the discriminatory policy of the store has been carried on for more than a month by the local youth council of the NAACP together with other organizations. Hawkins stated that the discrimination was being carried on with the full knowledge of the Woolworth corporation. Youth groups here plan an organized drive to win jobs with the chain.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

N.Y. Labor Board Bars Color Line

NEW YORK.—The State Labor Relations Board rejected a union petition for an election among "Non-Oriental" employees of the World Chinese - American Restaurant, 2387 Seventh Avenue.

JUL 26 1941

The board held that the petition, filed by the Bartenders and Restaurant Employees' Union, argued solely on the basis of differentiation between Oriental and non-Oriental workers and that such discrimination was against the public policy of the State.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

JOB DISCRIMINATION IN HARLEM

A PROMINENT BUISNESS MAN in 125th street has asked The Age to do something to control the Harlem Labor Union and other groups that have been agitating for jobs in New York. It was pointed out that the agitation of the past few years have caused a number of large business firms to abandon the 125th street district for other sections of the city, the most recent move being that of the Harlem branch of the Douglas Shoe Company. Our informant fears that the constant agitation is ruining the street for business.

We asked him why the Mediation Board of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce wasn't functioning in such matters, and he replied that he didn't think white people could do anything with Negroes and that it was up to our own leaders to control the radical elements in our midst. He cited the current picketing of a new vegetable market where a dispute arose because the owners fired some of their colored employees. While the union was staging a mass picket demonstration, two Negro racketeers were closeted with the manager offering to call off the pickets for a consideration.

Although we do not condone such tactics, we would like to point out that the best solution of the problem is jobs. All the agitation in Harlem in the past decade has grown out of unemployment. A prosperous community is advantageous both to the consuming public and the merchants. For a long time, the 125th street merchants ignored the plight of the Negroes living in their immediate neighborhood. The charge has often been made that many of these stores have taken unfair advantage of their customers in prices and inferior goods and many people now feel that the merchants are reaping the results of their own carelessness and indifference.

Our suggestion is that merchants join in the job campaign for Negroes(not necessarily in their stores but in the defense industries and factories in the Metropolitan District. The Harlem Labor Union and others seeking jobs for Negroes would welcome the aid and active support of the white merchants in their neighborhood.

Such a campaign condhcted on an inter-racial basis would put an end to the idea that white merchants of Harlem are hostile to Negroes and are trying to curb their encroachment on areas formerly occupied by other racial groups. And with the unemployed population of Harlem reduced to a minimum, they would find that few people would have the time or inclination to engage in picketing or other forms of labor agitation.

JUL 19 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

ROCKEFELLER FAMILY CREED

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, Jr., in a recent radio address gave the creed of his famous family, citing ten points by which they raised their children, the keynote of which was simplicity and a sense of responsibility to society. This is all very fine and through this sense of responsibility the Rockefeller family has done much for mankind in general and for Negro education in particular.

But we don't think Mr. Rockefeller has tendered the Negro the same democracy in the economic field as has been done in education and other lines. We know of several employees of our race at No. 26 Broadway and in Rockefeller Center who have not been advanced with the companies they represent as members of other races have done. In fact most of Mr. Rockefeller's colored employees are messengers or domestic or personal servants.

He would be setting a fine example for the rest of the country if, for instance, he would place some of the skilled workers from the now defunct Dunbar National Bank in similar jobs with the Chase National Bank or some of the other big financial institutions controlled by his family.

JUL 19 1941

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Discrimination Checked

DISCRIMINATION by white-owned chain and retail stores against Negro employees in Harlem has been the source of serious discontent in recent years. The Negro citizens of Harlem rightly resented the carryover of a vicious racial policy into an area where they form the overwhelming majority of the population. To correct this injustice, a coordinating committee representing two hundred Negro organizations conducted an energetic campaign which was rewarded last week when the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, acting for hundreds of white-owned stores, guaranteed at least one-third of all sales positions in Harlem to Negro workers.

While this proportion is still inequitable, the agreement must be regarded as an important victory for progressive Negroes and whites who have long fought discriminatory racial policies in employment. The united effort which produced this victory points the way to new advances, not only in Harlem but in every other community. It is an elementary principle of justice and democracy that Negroes are fully entitled to jobs in every industry and profession, and we cannot rest until this principle is completely realized in practice.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

COUNCIL GETS BILL BARRING JIM CROW

In All New York City Contracts

NEW YORK, Sept. 25—(ANP)—The city council last Tuesday received a bill which if passed would make it unlawful to discriminate against any person in the matter of employment because of race, color, or creed by holders of city contracts. The measure was introduced by Councilman Arthony J. Digiovanna, Brooklyn Democrat, and referred to the committee on general welfare.

Introduction of the bill comes at a time when both the federal and state governments have taken steps to end un-American influences in the matter of employment. The councilman admitted that he had had in mind the recent executive order of President Roosevelt barring discrimination in defence contracts, when he presented his proposal.

Welcomes Support

Councilman Digiovanna said he had been requested by the Blue Men of America, various Italian societies and several Jewish organizations to introduce the bill. The fact that no Negro groups have approached him he did not regard as significant since, as he said, they did not know that he had interested himself in the matter. He did express welcome for such support.

The bill as introduced under the title "Discrimination in Employment on City Contracts," reads as follows:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City of New York that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of any person because of the race, color or creed of such person. It shall be unlawful for any person, concern, business, agency or bureau, whether private, public or governmental, or any corporation having contractual relationship with the City of New York, to refuse to employ or refuse to continue in any employment, any person on account of race, color or creed of such person."

No Provision for Enforcement

In addition, it would further be unlawful "directly or indirectly, to ask, indicate or transmit, orally or in writing, the race, creed, or color of religious affiliation of any person employed or seeking employment from such person, concern, business, agency, bureau or corporation."

Penalties provided are a fine of not more than $100 or imprisonment up to 60 days, or both. The law would become effective immediately.

When it was pointed out to the councilman that no provision is made for the enforcement of the law, he admitted imperfections might be present but that he is anxious to have the recommendations of interested groups for the purpose of proper amendment. The law in his opinion would apply to material as well as construction contracts.

35c-1941

NEW YORK

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Employment Picture Painted By OPM Is Not True--NAACP

35c

Charge Brewster Aviation Still Bars Race Workers

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(SNS) — Contrary to optimistic stories sent out from the Office of Production Management by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, chief, Negro Employment and Training branch, Labor Division, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People learned last week that Brewster Aeronautical Corporation with plants in Long Island City, N. Y., and at Newark airport, N. J., has made no steps to drop its color bars. Brewster was among the plants named in the recent OPM release as having hired a crew of sheet-metal workers.

AUG 8 1941

The aircraft company which is making planes for the Navy has employed five Negro workers but as sheet-metal assistants it is reported. It is also rumored that one of these assistants was recently fired.

The NAACP is in possession of three affidavits attesting to the company's refusal to hire Negro workers.

CASE OF OSTEN

Most flagrant refusal is in the case of Edmond Van Osten, 31, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who has nine years of experience as a sheet-metal worker with the William P. Gaynor company. Van Osten was sent by the New York State Employment Service to the Brewster Plant in Long Island City the week of July 23 where he applied for sheet-metal work.

According to Van Osten's affidavit, he was interviewed at the plant by a Mr. Frampeton who told him there were no openings for sheet-metal workers. Van Osten said he saw Frampeton hire about 35 or 40 white men for this job. Van Osten then asked for a job as sheet-metal helper, but was told by Frampeton that white workers did not like to work with colored. He offered the experienced craftsman a job as porter.

Van Osten returned to the plant last week on advice from the Employment Service and was told by Frampeton that he could not hire any colored workers.

AUG 8 1941

CITES EXAMPLE

Van Osten also said that while refusing him work, Brewster hired a south European who had only his second citizenship papers and had difficulty in reading the blueprint.

The second cast brought to the NAACP last week is that of John J. Woods, 22, of Yonkers, N. Y., with 400 hours of special training in aircraft riveting. Woods completed his course two months ago at Saunders Training school, Yonkers, where the instructors were all Brewster employees. In spite of this, Woods' application was turned down last month by Brewster on the ground that there was no need for riveters. Woods learned later from his school principal that several riveters had been hired from the school after his application was refused. Woods' second attempt to get work last week also failed.

Oliver Ming, 21, of New York City has both training and experience. He has a certificate from Manhattan high school where he specialized in airplane and engine mechanics and a certificate from the same school for a course in emergency training which he took last summer. In addition he worked for a year at La Guardia field as Junior Aircraft Assistant. Twice Ming has applied at Brewster's Long Island plant for employment, once a year and a half ago, once on Thursday, July 30. Both times he was told there were no openings, in spite of the fact that there are a number of graduates from Manhattan High school whom he knows personally are working now at the plant.

The NAACP declared that if all the reports sent out by Dr. Weaver on behalf of the OPM are like the Brewster case, the OPM is attempting to paint a rosy picture of a dark situation.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

COMPANY REPORTED TO WANT NO GERMAN, ITALIAN, OR NEGRO LABORERS

359

NEW YORK—It has been reported to the N.A.A.C.P. that the Anaconda Wire and Steel Co. of Hastings, N. Y., has an open order with the Yankers office of the New York State Employment Service asking for laborers with the following qualifications:

"Laborers — single men, 20-40 years; mar[illegible]0 years, strong build, must weigh over 150 lbs. **No Italians, Germans, or Negroes.** Salary, 50c hour, raise in 3 months to 73c hour."

AUG 25 1941

The N.A.A.C.P. immediately wired Richard Brockway, NYSES director, saying, "We vigorously protest not only the discrimination but the bracketing of Negroes with nationals of Germany and Italy with which the United States is virtually at war. We call upon the NYSES immediately to act and to advise us of action taken."

AUG 25 1941

Mr. Brockway called the N.A.A.P. New York office on receipt of the wire to say that he is sending a representative to see if the report is true and if so that changes be made

---

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Report Company Bans Hiring Of Negroes, Germans And Italians

35c 1941 N.Y.

AUG 25 1941

It has been reported to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the Anaconda Wire and Steel company of Hastings, N. Y., has an open order with the Yonkers office of the New York State Employment Service asking for laborers with the following qualifications:

"Laborers—single men, 20-40 years; married men, 25-40 years, strong build, must weigh over 150 lbs. No Italians, Germans, or Negroes. Salary, 50 cents per hour, raise in 3 months to 73 cents per hour."

The NAACP immediately wired Richard Brockway NYSES direcor, saying, "We vigorously protest the bracketing of Negroes with nationals of Germany and Italy with which the United States is virtually at war. We call upon the NYSES immediately to act and to advise us of action taken."

AUG 25 1941

Mr. Brockway called the NAACP New York office on receipt of the wire to say that he is sending a representative. to see if the report is true and if so that changes be made.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

HOOVER SAYS F. B. I. EMPLOYS NEGROES

359

NEW YORK, N.Y.—In answer to an inquiry by the N. A. A. C. P., J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (G-men) of the Department of Justice, writes stating: "Please be advised that this bureau has no ban on the employment of Negroes, and, as a matter of fact, there are a number of Negroes in the employ of this Bureau at the present time. With regard to your question as to the positions in which these persons are employed, you are advised that they are employed in both investigative and clerical capacities."

AUG 25 1941

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Aircraft Concern Flatly Refuses To Hire Negro

35c

New York.—Contrary to optimistic storjes sent out from the Office of Production Management by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, the Brewster Aeronautical Corporation in Newark, N. J., has made no steps to drop its color bars.

AUG 25 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Bus Drivers Given Runaround By Companies Despite Job Promises

The nine young Negro men who recently passed examinations qualifying them to drive buses on New York's streets feel they have been given the "run-around" by the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corp., according to statements made by three of them yesterday. While asserting that they had no authority to speak for the remaining six, Hiawatha Lynn, 29, of 128 W. 138th St., Eddie Gordon, 31, of 2260 Bathgate Ave., Bronx, and Elmer O. Haney, 37, 461 W. 146th St.

JUN 26 1941

Officials of the bus companies, however, asserted that there was no justification for the men's "suspicions" and that the companies are living up to their agreement with the United Negro Bus Strike Committee and the Transport Workers Union. This agreement, signed April 19, provided for hiring Negroes to the extent of 17 per cent of all workers in the companies' employ.

The nine men took their physical examination May 20 in the companies' offices at 650 W. 132nd St. Immediately thereafter they were each given seven days' training of 10 hours each at actual driving of buses.

Mr. Gordon, former Olympic and world broad-jump champion, said yesterday that inquiries at the company's offices brought the response that the first 25 men taken on would include the nine Negro applicants on the waiting list. A member of the United Negro Bus Association said later that there is a possibility that if the Transport Workers Union is granted the eight-hour day for which it bargained following the recent strike a few Negro drivers may be taken on within a month.

JUN 26 1941

The three men who made their statements to the Daily Worker yesterday said company officials have protested their "good faith" with respect to the written agreement. They asserted that the best manifestation of good faith would be the giving of jobs to the nine Negro drivers who had qualified. Having seen Negro drivers on the buses during the comparatively brief training period, the men said, many Negro people who had refrained from riding the buses until Negroes were hired are under the impression now that these men are regularly employed. The driver-candidates said that the companies are profiting from the public's mistaken impression.

JUN 26 1941

A meeting is being called at one o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 138th Street near Seventh Ave., of all former pickets of the bus stops and of the men who qualified by examination to drive the buses.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Employ Only 139 At Plant

SEP 26 1941

Company Blames Union And Union Blames The Company

(By Special Representatives)

CAMDEN, N. J.—Only 139 out of 15,457 workers at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation here are colored, according to a survey made by the Camden City and County Council of the National Negro Congress. The payroll of the corporation is nearly $1,000,000 weekly.

SEP 27 1941

Many of these colored men are skilled, but in no instance are they allowed to perform anything but common labor, being restricted to four departments.

Skilled workers at the New York Shipbuilding plant are all members of the Marine and Shipyard Workers Union, CIO, whose constitution explicitly outlaws discrimination because of race, creed or color.

In addition to being barred from skilled jobs, no colored men are accepted for training in the three schools conducted by the company. The usual run-around, with the Union blaming the company and the company blaming the Union—is very much in evidence.

SEP [illegible] 1941

Plan Battle

The joint Camden-Philadelphia job committees of the National Negro Congress are taking an active part in boosting a three-way program to eliminate this discrimination. Serving on these committees are: Miss Goldie Ervin, of Philadelphia; James L. Johnson, Jr., founder and chairman of the labor relations committee of the Camden Council; Mr. Boutee, labor union representative; Harry Jackson Lorenzo Hart, Lewis Walls, Raymond L. Johnson, Van Brim, William E. Smith, Kenneth Norton, Charles P. Hardy and Glover C. Davis, all members of the Camden Council; and Leonard Davis, shipyard employee representative. Ninety per cent of the colored men are said to have pledged their support to this group, which has held several meetings here during the past two weeks.

The Council is responsible for the colored workers now employed, since prior to a fight for jobs at the plant made by the Council 18 months ago, there were only 19 colored men employed.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes Rally at Macy's Today in Job Ban Protest

"Nothing for you," hiring officials in Macy's Department Store have told at least two hundred highly-trained and experienced Negro workers—mostly young women, during the past month.

NOV 19 1941

A typical group, whose applications have been part of the "Job Campaign for Defense" of the National Negro Congress, yesterday told a Daily Worker reporter about their experiences in Macy's employment office. Today, says Rosalie Henderson, administrative secretary of the Manhattan Council of the Congress, the job campaign will be climaxed by a "Victory Demonstration" in front of Macy's from 5 to 7 P. M.

NOV [illegible] 1941

"All people who want to see fair play and democracy should come," she said. "We want to surround Macy's with pickets demanding jobs for Negroes! Favorite slogan of those organizing the demonstration," Miss Henderson added, is

"Job equality, let's make it a
practice,
To help defeat the Hitler Axis!"

ONY MENIAL HIRING

Macy's at present hires Negroes only to run the elevators and work inside the kitchen. The group of young women whom Miss Henderson introduced to this reporter as typical of job applicants sent by the Negro Congress were trained salesgirls, dieticians, clerical workers, dressmakers, and so on.

Here are typical cases: Helen Elliott, high school graduate with three years business training and experience as typist clerk in the New York State Employment Service, applied the week of Oct. 20. They took her application card, and told her, "No opening." She's had to work as a maid because she couldn't get any other job.

JOB BANS

Theo Lewis, graduate of Morris College, in South Carolina, who has taught school in the South and worked as a clerk in a Harlem publishing house, was told, 'No work for you." "I'm employed right now as a maid," she told the Daily Worker. "Have been for two years, while I try and try to find something else."

NOV 19 1941

One of the applicants, a young woman from the West Indies with two years' college training, a professional dressmaker, asked for work in the dress alterations department. The answer was the same as for the rest. **"But I had the nerve to go a second time, and the lady was rather cross—in fact she had no patience. She told me, 'You don't have to come back.' When I told her I needed the job badly, she added, 'Well, you're wasting your time!'"**

NOV 19 1941

"We don't know of anyone hired, there," Miss Henderson said. "Just there," Miss Henderson said. 'Just one was offered a job, though, and this is interesting. He is a young man with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. They told him they had a good job for him—in the kitchen."

"We are carrying out this campaign as a defense activity," Miss Henderson said. 'We are attempting to cooperate wiuth the President, who has already stated the policy of no discrimination as part of defense."

35c-1941 OHIO

From: The Nation

May 24, 1941

In The Wind pp. 613

Toledo, Ohio, has in recent months been the center of an anti-Negro campaign. A Negro Applicant for a teaching license was officially forbidden to take the examinations on the ground that a Negro could under no circumstances get a teaching appointment.

The Toledo school board has proposed the erection of a Jim Crow high school. A committee of the National Association for the Protection of Colored People sent out a questionnaire to thirty-one employers asking whether they would employ skilled Negro help in defense production. Only one replied, and he said no.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Akron Aircraft Co. Limits Colored Men to Jobs as Janitors

WASHINGTON.

Samuel R. Shepard, president of the Akron, Ohio, branch of the NAACP, recently advised the Special Committee on Participation in the National Defense Program of the exclusion of colored workers from employment as skilled workers by the Goodyear Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

According to Mr. Shepard, all colored applicants have their applications marked "Col. (jan.)," indicating that they will be employed only as janitors. The Akron aircraft plant recently received contracts through the Office of Production Management totaling $2,476,343.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

All Bars Must be Lowered

Union Official Says 'No Jim Crow Allowed'

COLUMBUS, O.—(ANP).—Vigorously oposed to discrimination of Negro delegates to the 1941 C. I. O. convention to be held in Youngstown, O., Ted F. Silvey, secretary-treasurer of Ohio's C. I. O. council, reviews his efforts to stamp out practices of discrimination of Negroes by hotels in a circular letter to all C. I. O. affiliated units, in a statement issued September 6.

Citing the Hotel Ohio case, at Youngstown, he states that he contacted officials of the hotel last July 22 and spent the entire day with them, seeking to convey the council's opinion on questions of full accommodation for colored members at the coming convention.

Feeling that Negroes had been well thought of to be elected delegates, he sought to have them accepted by the management without discrimination or mistreatment. He insisted that all accommodations and privileges thereto accorded other guests be granted to Negro union delegates and visitors and that they be politely and promptly served in all eating and drinking places in the hotel.

The management offered the excuse that other registered guests would not like the close association with Negro visitors, but to that Mr. Silvey requested all dissenting guests be sent to the C. I. O. convention office in the hotel, where he would clearly explain to them how and why equal treatment of colored members must be given. This, he said, would relieve the management of embarrassment.

The circular letter was distributed to the various affiliated unions as a result of an inqury made by a newly-chartered Cleveland union about section 22 of the 1941 C. I. O. convention call. The local union had asked why information about accommodations for colored people was included with the hotel listings. It seemed that such information had been interpreted as being an act of discrimination against Negro members.

35c-1941

PENNSYLVANIA

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Cramp's Shipyard Wants Second Generation Whites; ---Color Line At Autocar

(Editorial, Page 9)

A call for hundreds of young workers by Cramp Shipyard had the National Youth Administration stunned a few days ago, when the company specified that these men should be "second generation" whites. This the Philadelphia TRIBUNE has learned on unimpeachable authority.

The request from Cramp's was made for men to be trained in the shipbuilding trades, in order to be ready when the northeast shipyard gets going at full blast on its construction of warships for the United States.

MAY 29 1941

Just whether the order from Cramp's was made in writing or not is not known, but it is known that NYA was asked to train hundreds of men, that NYA was told these men must be white and "second generation," and that the NYA asked the State Employment Service to recruit these men from its lists of the unemployed

Financed by U. S. Money

Brought to life by many millions of federal dollars and assured huge contracts, Cramp's joins the long list of defense industries which are refusing to permit Negroes to work, or which close the skilled trades to them. Now Cramp's goes several steps further, in barring white also, unless they are fortunate enough to be of the second generation.

This policy at Cramp's was discovered at about the same time that Main Liners brought to light the fact that the Autocar Company of Ardmore has again turned down any suggestions of employing Negroes at any but menial jobs.

No one at the NYA could be found Wednesday morning who would, or could, throw any light on the Cramp order, and the same was true at the State Employment Office.

Reliable sources in Harrisburg reveal, however, that the State NYA office has been studying steps to take to correct "or get around" the Cramp order and similar ones.

NYA'S Training Program

These same reliable sources declare that it is part of the NYA program to train workers for the special needs of an employer; that this employer may pass on the trainees selected, but that he must accept at least 75 per cent of the number who complete training.

It is not known what the NYA can do to curb the spread of race discrimination and nationality background bias at Cramp's, since the NYA, itself, draws race lines at its resident centers, like the one at West Chester, and at project training, projects like these in Williamsport.

Shorter Interviewed

MAY 29 1941

Charles Shorter, industrial secretary of the Armstrong Association, when reached by the TRIBUNE, said that he has made several visits to Cramp's in order to find work for Negroes. He revealed:

1. That much of the rehabilitation work now being done is largely thru sub-contractors and not directly by Cramp's, and that an appreciable number of Negroes are employed.
2. That the personnel men at Cramp's have said that "some foremen may use Negroes," but that it would be largely a matter of whether white workers would work with Negroes.
3. That so far as he has been able to discover, no Negroes are included in the training program and plans at Cramp's.
4. That, according to the personnel men, "there is no policy concerning Negroes worked out as yet" for Cramp's.

MAY 29 1941

Mr. Shorter declared that the Cramp men he has spoken to have been friendly and sympathetic and he suggested that a committee of citizens wait upon them in order to push the idea of Negro employment.

TRIBUNE MAKES QUERIES

The TRIBUNE tried to make contact yesterday (Wednesday) with Cramp's, the local NYA and the State Employment Service.

Dr. C. R. Pendleton, supervisor of training at Cramp's, and H. V. Ball, personnel director, were not in their offices.

Frank Connor, of the State Employment Office, was out, but his office said he would be the only person in position to discuss the Cramp situation.

Later, Postelle A. Vaughn, supervisor of Negro research, called the TRIBUNE, then conferred with his superiors, and finally called back to explain:

1. That the State Employment Office gets requests from NYA for such youth as NYA needs for work experience.
2. That the State Employment Service sends NYA youth, regardless of race or creed.
3. That NYA can use the youths referred in any way it wishes.
4. That nothing is known of an order for "second generation whites."

At the NYA, 900 N. Broad street, William H. Clark, county administrator, and Arthur Sellers, Jr., his assistant, reached separately, were emphatic in saying that "the NYA does not give work experience to youth at the request of any particular concern, and neither do we place workers."

"The schools train, we give work experience, and the State Employment Office does the actual placing," Mr. Clark declared.

In reply to a direct question, Mr. Clark said he had not heard of any request specifying that only "second generation whites" be trained for Cramp's.

Autocar Refuses Negroes

In Ardmore all attempts to get employment for skilled colored workers with the Autocar Company have been futile, according to a report from the Bryn Mawr branch of the NAACP, which has been working on the case.

The branch wrote a letter to Robert Page of the Autocar Company asking for an interview. But no answer was received. Dr. N. N. Atkinson, chairman of the branch's defense commission, **called Page on the phone and was told that it was impossible to arrange an interview.**

Several hours later **Page called and** stated that an interview had been arranged for that afternoon. Since a number of the men on the committee were at work, Dr. Atkinson and H. C. Nelson visited President Page at his plant.

MAY 29 1941

Page stated that he could not include any youths in the defense training courses and that it was the company's policy not to hire colored, for fear that the whites might strike and close the plant.

Letters of protest were sent to Robert Weaver, and Sidney Hillman of the Office of Production; and Walter White, secretary of the NAACP.

The protest demanded that colored men be given a fair chance to work and be trained and that the government refuse to award contracts to companies using discrimination.

———A Colored Judge———

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Cramp's Shipyard Requests 200 Second Generation WHITE Youths

CRAMP'S SHIPYARD is, perhaps more than any other ship-building company, doing business today as a direct result of public bounty. Taxes amounting to millions were abated and public funds were poured into its treasury so that it could open for business to build ships for national defense.

MAY 29 1941

Word now comes from high authority that Cramp's shipyard has requested the National Youth Administration and the Philadelphia Board of Education to train 200 machine tool operators with the stipulation that they train only SECOND GENERATION, WHITE YOUTHS.

This is a diabolical scheme for two very self-evident reasons: (1) It is building up class and race distinctions with public money and (2) it jeopardizes national defense, the very thing which the shipyard was opened to help.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Only 'Whites' Wanted by Jim-Crow Shipyard Firm

Philadelphia Cramp Shipyard Asks State to Supply Only White Workers for Training; Negro Congress Fights Jim-Crow Act

PHILADELPHIA, June 12.—The Cramp Shipbuilding Co. here has requested the Pennsylvania State Employment Service to supply 200 first-generation young white Americans for training as skilled mechanics, the National Negro Congress reported yesterday. The Executive Board of the Philadelphia Council of the Congress, announcing that the organization would fight the company's request, said that the call for workers of just this particular type represented "continuation of the policy of discrimination against both the Negro and the foreign-born."

Notice has already gone out from the Congress for a mass protest rally at 8:30 Friday night in the Witherspoon Auditorium, Walnut and Juniper Sts. The main speaker will be Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress and director of the Committee of African Affairs, Dr. Bella V. Dodd, of the American Federation of Teachers, and the Rev. H. M. Hassell Fletcher, will also speak.

JUN 13 1941

350

35c-1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

SOUTH CAROLINA

Hire 11 Race Painters On U. S. Hospital; White Painters Quit

FEB 28 1941

By JOHN H. McCRAY

CHARLESTON, S. C.—(SNS)—

When eleven Negro painters went to work Monday morning on the government hospital being completed on the Old Dorchester Road by the Heslep and C. Y. Thomason Company, little did they suspect that their presence even in a separate detail and to themselves exclusively that twenty-four hours later Tuesday morning four of the eighty-odd white painters who have been employed on the project for sometime, would collect their wages and walkout because they too had been hired to help Uncle Sam prepare himself against destruction in the event of war. But such was the happening and all day Tuesday and Tuesday night local labor officials for the painters were working hard to prevent a demonstraton or a serious outbreak animosity. Incidentally each of the eleven Negro painters is a union man and uses the same business agent as white painters.

FEB 28 1941

The Negro painters were employed on the project after several weeks of investigation into the employment of Negroes in this section on jobs that are related to the nation's giant national defense program. Two weeks ago, an investigator from Washington informed local race members that the Company erecting the hospital would employ several Negro painters if the painters would present themselves at the employment office. The possibility was taken up by several civic leaders and last Wednesday Thursday and Friday were given to completing arrangements. The men were employed Monday.

FEB 28 1941

An interesting sidelight on the now untangled situation is that one of the four paint mixers employed on the project, threatened jokingly to quit his job also Tuesday night. He told a reporter that he had been enjoying his job but when the colored painters started working Monday they kept him running helter-skelter trying to keep them supplied with ample paint. "Them fellows must be eating the stuff" he said.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Klans Speak In S.C.

Grand Dragon Assails Negro Teachers for Seeking Equal Pay—Says White Supremacy Is Being Jeopardized and America Must Remain a 'White Man's Country.'

MAR 22 1941

GREENVILLE, S. C., Mar. 20—The following excerpt was taken from the radio address of Ben E. Adams, grand dragon of the South Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, over radio station WFBC and is titled "Our Racial Problem in the Public Schools."

The speech has been printed in pamphlet form and distributed widely throughout the South. This copy was sent to a colored citizen in Atlanta, Ga., and the enclosed letter said, "If you are eligible we would like to have you with us in our campaign for Americanism."

Kluxer Adams' speech, in part:

"Have you heard of what happened in Columbia a few days ago? Perhaps you have not, since not a single man in public office has lifted his voice in defense of the traditions of the South and the preservation of racial distinction. Here is one phase of the matter:

"A group of Negroes appeared before members of the General Assembly and demanded that Negro school teachers be placed on equality with the white school school teachers of South Carolina. And that is not all. The Negroes went a step further and threatened the lawmakers, that if they did not place the Negroes and whites on the same level, the Negroes would take the matter to the United States Courts.

MAR 22 1941

"What are our public officials going to do or say about that? In his address to the Legislature at the opening session this year, the governor of the State said there were perilous times. With that statement we can all agree. But, what next? Must we stop there, or will someone in authority in South Carolina display that leadership the State so sorely needs? Up to this time it has not been displayed.

"It is common knowledge that the Ku Klux Klan was originally founded to save the South from the domination of the Negro race under the leadership of scalawags and, carpetbaggers who for selfish reasons were willing to see the best blood on earth trampled in the dirt.

"We don't want to again go through another reconstruction period, but I tell you now the white men of the South, when aroused to the danger which our children face in the school rooms, will not submit to racial equality being brought on by public officials who remain silent for the sake of a mess of Federal pottage and some political appointments.

"This is fundamental with the Ku Klux Klan. Again I refer to one of the official documents of the Klan issued 20 years ago. Sections 1 and 2 of article two says:

"'We stand for white supremacy. Distinction among the races is not accidental, but designed. This is clearly brought out in the one Book that tells authoritatively of the origin of the races. This distinction is not incidental, but is of the vastest importance and incidates the wisdom of the Divine mind. It is not temporary, but is as abiding as the ages that have not yet ceased to roll. The supremacy of the white must be maintained, or be overwhelmed by the rising tide of color.

"'We must keep this a white man's country. Only by doing this can we be faithful to the foundations laid by our forefathers.

MAR 22 1941

"'This Republic was established by white men.

"'It was established for white men.

"'Our forefathers never intended that it should fall into the hands of an inferior race.

"'Every effort to wrest from white men the management of its affairs in order to transfer it to the control of blacks or another color, or to permit them to share in its control, is an invasion of our sacred constitutional perogatives and a violation of divinely established laws. Every effort to wrest from the white man the control of this country must be resisted. (And let me say here by way of parentheses, that the demands made upon your Legislature that the white and black school teachers be placed on the same level is just another step toward complete equality). I repeat that "Every effort to wrest from the white man the control of this country must be resisted." No person of the white race can submit to such efforts without shame. ONE OF THE SAD FACTS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE IS THE READINESS OF SO MANY POLITICIANS TO SELL THEIR NOBLE WHITE BIRTHRIGHT FOR A MESS OF BLACK POTTAGE. They would betray their race in order to win a few black votes.

"'We would not rob the colored population of their rights, but we demand that they respect the rights of the white race in whose country they are permitted to reside. When it comes to the point that they cannot and will not recognize and respect those rights, they must be reminded that this is a white man's country, so that they will seek for themselves a country more agreeable to their tastes and aspirations.

Ben E. Adams, Grand Dragon Realm of South Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

"'Purity of the white blood must be maintained. One of the crying evils of the times is the mixture of white blood with that of Negro. This evil has gone on since Colonial days, until perhaps more than half of the Negroes in the United States have some degree of white blood flowing in their veins. This condition is not only biologically disastrous, but is giving rise to grave social problems. Mulatto leaders who, under present social conditions, are forced to remain members of the Negro group and who aspire to white association because of their white blood, are boldly preaching racial equality in all its phases. The guilt for this state of affairs rests upon these members of the white race who for a moment of sexual satisfaction have betrayed their own kind and bartered their own blood.'

MAR 22 1941

"Perhaps there may be some who feel this matter should not be discussed, but left to its own end. Such an attitude will not remedy the situation. For many long years another grave social evil was taboo in the newspapers and over the radio. That is no longer true. Today some of the social evils are being openly attacked with the result that progress is being made toward their reduction and possible eradication. Therefore, do not let us, like the ostrich, hide our heads in the sand of time, while the mixture of blood carries us relentlessly toward the inglorious end of a mongrel race.

"The Ku Klux Klan is on the battlefront fighting defense of preserving America as given to us by our forefathers."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Vultee Aircraft Won't Give Employment To Negroes Even For Minor Jobs At Tenn. Plant

FEB 22 1941

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The local division of the Vultee Aircraft Company here not only refuses to employ Negroes as a part of its "regular working force," but holds out only the slightest hope of employing them in menial capacities such as porters and cleaners, Mrs E. W. Grant, secretary of the Nashville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People revealed Monday.

Mrs. Grant made public a letter received by Dr. Eli S. Marks, chairman of the branch's educational committee, from G .S. Hastings, industrial relations manager of aircraft company's local plant located at Berry Field near here. The letter was written in response to a committee inquiry on the employment of Negro skilled workers at the plant. The committee sent the letter, Mrs. Grant said, after the local school board had advised them that little promise could be held out for the establishment of defense training classes for Negroes in Nashville, because the Vultee plant would not employ Negroes "in skilled capacities, even if properly trained persons were available."

The complete text of the aircraft official's letter to Dr. Marks, follows:

FEB 22 1941

"In reply to your letter of February 5, 1941, may we advise that we do not now believe it advisable to include people with our regular working force. We may, at a later date, be in a position to add some colored people in minor capacities such as porters and cleaners.

"In discussing this matter with some of the members of the Board of Education, they have advised that they are considering starting courses in occupations which colored people would experience no difficulty in obtaining employment. These courses, I believe, cover such subjects as auto repair, construction work, cement finishers, moulding, etc.

"If I can be of any further service please do not hesitate to contact me."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Holds Unique Job With Illinois Central Railroad

APR 20 1941

APR 20 1941

JACKSON, Tenn.—(ANP)—Marion Cunningham, employed as an air brake repairman at the Frogmoor yards of the Illinois Central Railroad, this year celebrated his 45th year of continuous service with the company. He started working for the Illinois Central in 1896 on a 10 hour a day shift for 10 cents an hour as a machinists' helper.

APR 20 1941

His present job is the only one of its kind held by a Negro employe of the railroad. Cunningham is now subject to retirement as far as length of time in service is concerned, but he has not yet reached the retirement age. He relates that he remembers the time when the shops of the ICR here in Jackson employed nearly 400 helpers, more than half of whom were Negroes.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Terrorizing Negro Workers

MAR 8 1941

Last week a group of white workers told an East Texas sawmill foreman that "If you don't fire these d— Negroes we are going to run them all out of here." The foreman and his company refused to be bluffed and kept on working their Negro labor. The only reason given for the demand is that the Negroes are holding jobs that some white workers want since the government under the Wage and Hour Law, has standardized the pay in all the mills.

Several instances occurred in Arkansas last year where white workers terrorized Negro quarters and intimidated Negro preachers because a labor union election was lost for the lack of Negro support. Another section was terrorized because Negroes deserted the union during a strike and returned to work when starvation faced them.

Some people in this country and other countries may get the impression that these actions and sentiment represent the spirit of the white people generally toward the Negro. But this is not true either in East Texas or Arkansas where these sawmills are located. The practice of terrorizing is carried on by a few hoodlums who have nothing at stake but their neck and are using the Negro situation as their pastime.

Negroes can find encouragement and the sentiment of the better class of whites in the following article by Lynn Landrum, published in The Dallas Morning News:

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

NEGRO GARBAGE WORKERS HERE MAY BE REPLACED

JUL 12 1941

Negroes Framed to Strike; Union Ask Walkout to Get Jobs; Mexicans Seek to Replace Workers

The most vicious scheme to rid Negroes of their employment through unions and politics was discovered here Thursday when the Negro Labor News began an investigation of a labor dispute of the Houston Public Service Company which employs all Negro truck drivers and helpers in handling garbage for the city of Houston.

The Labor News found the scheme had been launched for sometime, long before the city election. It started when a Mexican, employe of the Public Service Company, entered into politics and was assured if a certain candidate for whom he was working was elected, he would see to it that the city garbage contract was let to a man who would handle all Mexican labor. The Mexican played a losing game and the Houston Public Service Company, which has had the contract for many years, was again awarded the contract.

The Mexican finally lost his job and according to reports, soon started agitation among his Negro friends with the company about work and wage conditions.

The Negroes struck June 19. During the strike it is reported, the Mexican's father, also employed at the Houston Public Service Company, informed the management that his son wanted to come back to work; that there were some ''bad eggs'' (Negroes) employed there. He is said to have told the management that he could get all the Mexican help desired if the company would send out its truck to the Mexican Labor Hall near the Ship Channel.

Finally, all the Negroes returned to work and the strike was thought settled. It was learned that five or six of the workers were later discharged for various reasons.

On July 3, it is claimed a few of the garbage workers joined the Teamsters Union and filed complanits that they wre discharged for union activities. They took the matter up with Mayor Pickett who informed them the city had no jurisdiction in the matter and the Houston Public Service Company was a private concern.

In order to avoid a complete tie-up of the city garbage collection and since th matter involves Negro workers The Labor News urged a Citizens Committee to make a thorough investigation of the situation and take such steps as necessary to adjust conditions in the interest of public health and safety.

35c-1941

VIRGINIA

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

L. R. Reynolds Points Out Labor Bias

JAN 25 1941

Addresses Letter To University Research Bureau

RICHMOND, Va.—R. L. Reynolds, state director of the Virginia Commission on Interracial Cooperation, has addressed a letter to Robert West, director of the bureau of industrial research, University of Virginia, calling attention to problems now confronting Negro skilled labor in the state.

Mr. West recently published in the University "News Letter" an article on "Charting Virginia's Industrial Development."

"You no doubt are aware," said Mr. Roynolds, "that there has been a tendency in the past to discourage the use of Negroes in the skilled trades. An examination of such scholarly research as is to be found in the 'Study of the Negro in the Skilled Trades in Virginia,' by Dean R. B. Pinchbeck, would remind us that practically all the skilled work in the early days of Virginia was done by Negroes."

Mr. Reynolds then cited some of the factors which he considered responsible for the difficulties now confronting Negro skilled tradesmen, saying:

"No doubt many factors have been responsible for the change from those days to the present practices. Labor unions have played an important part. The lack of training facilities and apprenticeship are other factors. There is practically no apprenticeship opportunity available to Negroes in Virginia today."

(Editor's Note—Negroes are excluded from apprenticeship schools conducted in industries such as the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Norfolk Navy Yard, operated by U. S. Government; Norfolk Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company and the Lynchburg Iron and Foundry Company.)

35d-1941

35d

Try To Shunt Race Women To Domestic Service

Long Branch, N. J.—The attempt of a local office of the New Jersey State Employment Service to register all colored women as household workers regardless of their training and qualifications was stymied last week when Mrs. Lester Jackson was registered with the NJSES as a WPA teacher.

Action was begun on the case late last month when Mrs. Jackson attempted to register as a teacher but was told by Oliver R. Hatfield, manager of the Long Branch employment office that he had instructions "from higher up" to register colored women only as domestic workers.

Mrs. Lila B. Terhune, executive secretary of the Long Branch Public Welfare Society and Dr. J. C. McKelvie, president of the Long Branch NAACP were instrumental in achieving the victory for Mrs. Jackson.

Savannah Tribune

Savannah Ga.

JUL 17 1941

JUL 17 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

N. J. TRIES TO LABEL ALL NEGROES 'DOMESTICS'

LONG BRANCH, N. J., July 24—The attempt of a local office of the New Jersey State Employment Service to register all colored women as household workers, regardless of their training and qualifications was stymied last week when Mrs. Lester Jackson was registered with the NJSES as a WPA teacher.

Action was begun on the case late last month when Mrs. Jackson attempted to register as a teacher but was told by Oliver R. Hatfield, manager of the Long Branch employment office that he had instructions "from higher up" to register colored women only as domestic workers.

Mrs. Lila B. Terhune, executive secretary of the Long Branch Public Welfare Society and Dr. J. C. McKelvie, president of the Long Branch NAACP were instrumental in achieving the victory for Mrs. Jackson.

JUL 27 1941

JUL 27 1941

35d

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Domestics Strike For $10 Base Pay

35d

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Domestic servants employed in the better residential district here went on strike Monday, Sept. 22 for a wage minimum of $10.

SEP 27 1941

These workers have shown their dissatisfaction with the existing wage scale and manifested their desire to become organized. James Key, American Federation of Labor organizer for the hotel and restaurant employes union, the AFL local which ordinarily would take in cooks and maids, said the AFL union had made no effort to organize domestic servants.

SEP 27 1941

The Congress of Industrial Organizations has been approached by the workers, William R. Henderson Jr., state CIO vice president admitted.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

First Annual Banquet For Domestics Held

SEP 27 1941

35d

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Over 500 persons attended the banquet at the Windsor Community Center, last Thursday night, given by the Greensboro Negro Business League in honor of domestic and personal servants. An elaborate program of speeches and choice music was offered.

The principal speaker was Ned Davis, executive secretary of the Negro Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte, N. C., who is in charge of the servants' clinic in that city.

Mr. Davis, admonished his audience to become efficient in all fields of endeavor. He advanced the idea of reward according to labor and declared that to be well paid, one must offer a superior type of service.

NEW ORGANIZATION

The business league, which is a new organization in Greensboro, demonstrated the unity which can be gained within the race. Doctors, tailors, and men in various occupations joined in serving the guests.

Professional and vocational leaders and common laborers were united with one objective—the betterment of social and economic conditions of colored citizens in Greensboro.

NURSERY PLANNED

L. R. Russell, president of the league and master of ceremonies, stated that one of the main objectives of the business league is to build a nursery for children whose parents are employed as domestic or personal servants.

These parents cannot give their children the proper attention because of their jobs, which keep them away from home all day. Citizens of both races, in Greensboro, have become highly interested in this objective.

Short addresses were delivered by Miss Betsy Ford, Mrs. Douglass Long, Mrs. A. B. Campbell, Miss Lydia Jetton, A. G. Wells, J. R. Watts, M. H. Peek, and Attorney E. K. Hightower.

ENTERTAINMENT

Special musical selections were rendered by Morris Tynes. "Voices [illegible] of the South" choir, and Jimmy Gunn's orchestra. The orchestra, which is one of the South's best, furnished music for the dance which succeeded the banquet. The music presented by Gunn's musicians was thoroughly enjoyed by the league, which kept the band busy with requests.

Members of the social committee were: Dr. H. C. Eccles, Arthur Foust, Jr., C. C. Davis, Mrs. G. Blackburn, William Pompey, W. Holt, B. D. McCauley, Mrs. E. K. Hightower, and P. P. Shoffner. Miss Ruella Alexander was hostess.

Officers of the league are: L. R. Russell, president; W. E. Davis, first vice president; J. A. Joyner, executive secretary; W. K. Wright, corresponding secretary; J. W. Crawford, chairman executive committee; Major London, sergeant at arms; C. C. Crutchfield, treasurer; William Compton, N. L. Gregg, and W. N. Nelson.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Household Employees Unit Seeks To Unionize Domestics

OCT 15 1941

35

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—

Here is an exact copy of one of the many letters sent to Mrs. Eva Campbell, chairman of the Household Employees Organizing Committee:

"Dear Madam:

"I saw your add in the paper and if there is any lower wage scale it is housework.

"I have worked from 8:30 o'clock until 6 o'clock at night cleaning wall and regular spring job for $1.12 and no breakfast or meal for dinner to eat.

OCT 15 1941

"Also my daughter washes every day things for this lady's beauty shop and does the ironing for two children and two adults and only gets $6 a week.

"It certainly looks like a God-send to see your advertisement in the paper. Next time I write I will send you names and addresses of women and girls with their own signatures who get played like I do.

"Please let me know what time your meeting is Thursday."

"It is letters like this," says Chairman Campbell, "that inspire us to complete the goal of organizing the Domestic Workers." The Household Employees meet every Thursday at 4612 Woodward Avenue, Room 319, Garfield Building, Temple 1-1852.

Saturday, October 4th, they are giving their first party at 621 Melbourne Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Race 'Leaders' Halt CIO Aid To Ark. Domestics Earning Mere $4 A Week

OCT 25 1941

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Recent efforts of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to organize Negro workers here have been thwarted, temporarily.

OCT 25 1941

Workers urged to organize included laundresses, maids, cooks, and other domestic workers as well as oil mill and compress workers.

The C.I.O. plan was reportedly to demand a minimum $1 daily wage for domestics and vacations with pay. There is an increased demand here for domestic workers due to the influx of officers' families after the establishment of Camp Robinson, and a resultant increase of pay to domestics from a minimum of $3 to $4 a week.

Some of Little Rock's Negro population, led by Atty. R. J. Booker and C. H. Jones of the Southern Mediators association, seem content to wait upon circumstances to improve conditions. They bitterly oppose the organizational movement.

Booker is quoted as declaring "The C.I.O. tried to organize laundresses. We called a mass meeting three weeks ago Sunday and stopped that. We feel that we can work out the problems of our Race without outside help."

OCT 25 1941

Jones is reported to have said that "As far as the Negroes are concerned, the closed shop means 'outgo' of the Negro and the 'income' of the other fellow."

The local press has pounced upon these isolated efforts to defeat any organizational move and given them front-page publicity as barometers of the Little Rock Negroes' attitude.

OCT 25 1941

The tone of some of the papers' items has indicated a slight uneasiness among white planters and mill owners who would be affected by the workers' unionization.

It is reported that meetings in opposition to the union are poorly attended. On the other hand, the C.I.O. is said to be contacting prospective members individually instead of at public meetings.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AN EDITORIAL

AGITATION AMONG DOMESTIC WORKERS

We note that there is a a growing wave of unrest and agitating among domestic workers in the Houston territory. It seems that the situation arises from the question of hours and wages, and the rising cost of living, especially in rent. This unrest is aggravated by labor organizers whose activities in this community recently have claimed public interest.

OCT 25 1941

While domestic workers heretofore have not been altogether satisfied with their employment conditions, they have not made any organized protest against their employers or taken any step to correct their problems en masse. Labor organizers however, have recently broken into the domestic workers circle and learned of the working problems of cooks, maids, nurses, laundresses, chauffeurs and others, and offered a solution to their situation through organization. These leaders have learned about the long, tiring work hours of domestic help, the low pay scale, transportation problems and whatnot. In some instances, the situation is bad. On the other hand, conditions as a whole, are being exaggerated. **There are many fair-minded employers of domestic help.**

At Houston, it is estimated that Negroes do on the average of seventy per cent of the domestic work. In cases, all too numerous, these workers are underpaid. Oftentimes workers are called to start work as early as 6:30 and sometimes continue until 8:30 and 9:00 in the evening. At times they are called to stay with the children one and two nights per week for the same pay. Generally, workers are given a half-day off in the week and a half-day off on Sunday.

Employers of domestic help should understand that **when a worker is paid a decent wage, given decent work hours with fair treatment, he does his work more satisfactorily and strives harder to please his employer.** An underpaid and overworked employe can not in any way, render the best service or execute his duties efficiently because he is both mentally displeased and physically disabled.

OCT 25 1941

Poor work conditions and low wages certainly bring discontentment which makes a fertile field for unrest and agitation.

Domestic workers must have recreation. They, like others, must meet the rise in cost of living, government tax on food products, merchandise, household articles and other life necessities. Though some workers are given their meals on the job, their entire earnings in some cases, are spent in caring for dependents.

The domestic worker situation, while it is just now being closely observed in Houston, has been of foremost concern for quite some time in other sections of the country including the nation's capitol, New York, Chicago and the majority of southern cities. Labor union organizers, in most instances, have taken advantage of the situation and caused much unrest among the workers to the extent that action was taken to correct the evils that existed.

The Arkansas State Press out of Little Rock, in a recent issue, gives an intelligent analysis of the domestic workers problem generally. We quote excerpts of this article as follows:

DOMESTIC WORKERS

"We must not be hasty in forming conclusions concerning the matters of importance to those who work . . .

Domestic workers are underpaid. Their hours are long, their work is tedious and indefinite. They're as many types of domestic work programs as there are employers of domestic servants, cooks or nurses are obliged to satisfy the exactions of employers as various as there housewives who employ them.

To pay girls and women between three and four dollars per week for keeping house and tending babies and cooking, comes close to exploit—taking advantage of the personal necessities of those who are forced to work in the homes of those who employ servants . . .

OCT 25 1941

Those who pay fair wages and offer fair treatment, will have no difficulty in obtaining the type of workers desirable—intelligent, responsible, and trustworthy . . .

There are a number who are strongly opposed to any attempt of the CIO to organize domestic workers, believing it will not be to the advantage of colored domestic employees. Our girls and women who do household work are warned to think carefully and seek the advice of those who are acquainted with the principles and policies of the CIO before deciding one way or the other. AN UNADVISED AND HASTY DECISION MAY BRING ABOUT HARMFUL RESULTS."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

"MY MAID LEFT ME"

"My colored maid left me," said a Newport News, Va., shipyard official, "because her husband is making $50 a week building ships."

NOV 1 1941

"Twelve pounds," exclaimed a British sea captain, "That is as much as I make."

It's more than a good many of us are making, even in these war boom days. That isn't important.

What is significant is that workers who earn enough to take care of their families want their wives to look after their own households.

NOV 1 1941

Servants are a luxury. When total war reaches us, everybody will be needed in productive work, and many rich women will find it necessary to do their own housekeeping.

2

35d-1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Bronx Slave Market

Mayor LaGuardia has our heartiest support in his efforts to find a solution for the evils created by the so-called Bronx Slave Market. Last week police officers, acting on orders from the mayor rounded up more than 100 women and took them to three district relief offices for investigation. It was disclosed that only one of those in the group was on relief and only one was afflicted with an ailment that would ordinarily prevent her obtaining employment in domestic service. Here we have a group of able-bodied women trying to avoid going on relief, but in doing so are forced into the worse kind of economic serfdom.

MAR 8 - 1941

It most certainly is awful that these women have been forced to loiter on corners and bargain for a day's work at starvation wages, but merely driving them off the street will not solve the problem. However with the mayor's earnest backing, the situation can be brought to a head. Perhaps the establishment of a bonafide employment agency of some kind with the regulation of time and pay will turn the trick. Meanwhile, we hope for an early ruling in the matter from Mayor LaGuardia. The Bronx Slave Market is one evil we can well get along without.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Bronx Slave Market Report Handed to Mayor LaGuardia

MAR 22 1941

Advance copy of the report that is being submitted to Major LaGuardia, this week, covering the investigation into the so-called "slave markets' of the Bornx, entitled. "Report of Conditions Found on Street Corners in the Bronx on February 26, 1941 and March 4, 1941," carries no extensive recommendations.

MAR 22 1941

It is more a collection of information for the purpose of conference between the Mayor's office, the Social Security Board and the New York State Employment Service, in an attempt to remove the evil of the street corner markets as expeditiously as possible.

According to the report, 107 household employes were rounded up on the two days from scattered street corners and taken to private buses to three district offices of the Department of Public Welfare where they were asked to voluntarily submit to certain questioning.

The report said that in 30 cases the police were unable to find persons of the name and addresses given. A check-up was made on the relief status, and seven workers were found to be on relief. The report indicated that the average age of the employes was 35. Thirty-three were married; the husbands of 9 of these 33 work on WPA projects; 26 were separated; 8 were widowed and 40 single.

Proposal for the establishment of at least two employment offices in designated parts of the Bronx is tentatively mentioned in the report.

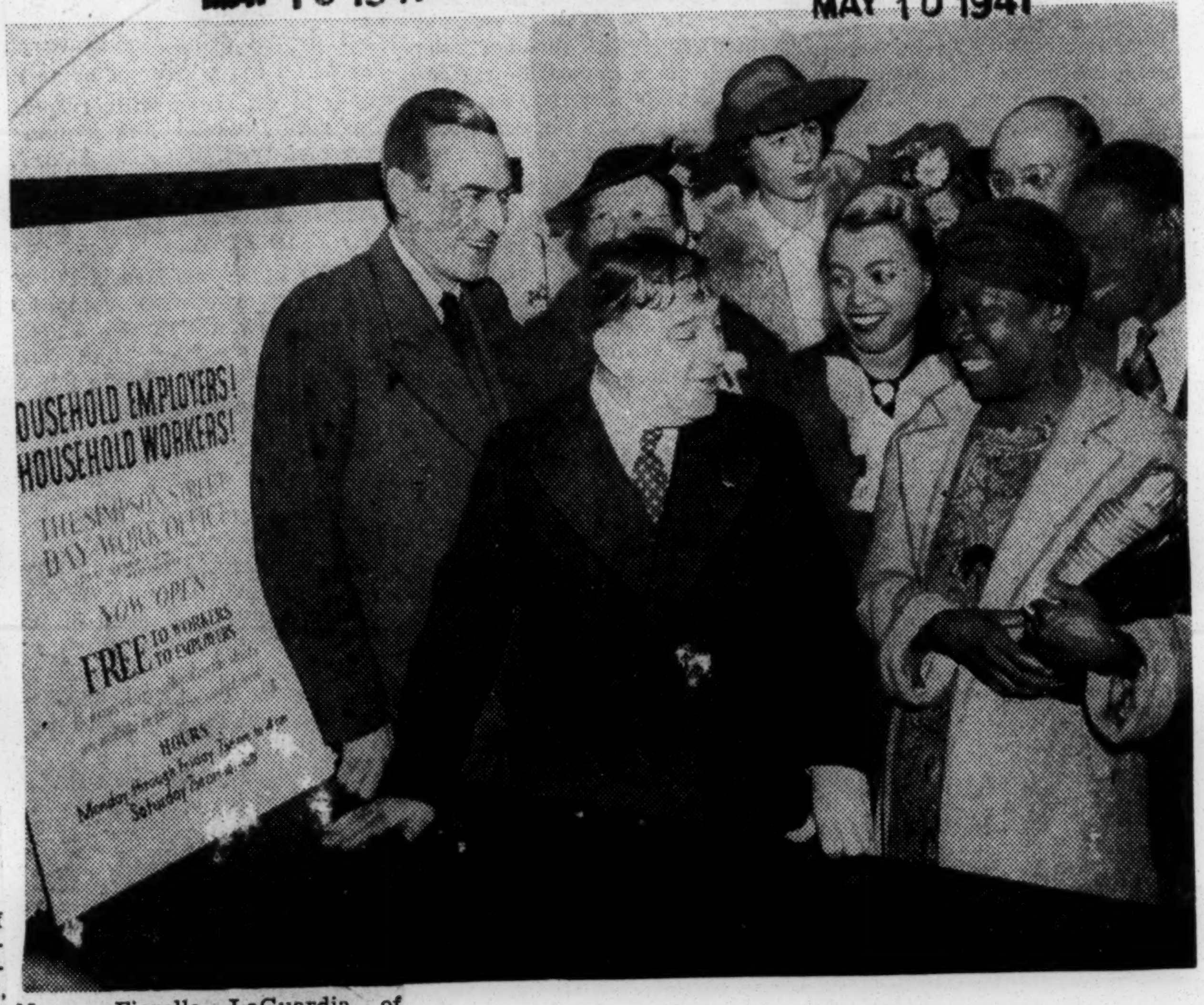
MAR 22 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

N.Y. "Slave Marts" Doomed

MAY 10 1941

MAY 10 1941



Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia of New York is shown as he officiated last week at the opening of the Simpson Street day work office in the Bronx. The agency is designed to replace the street corner "slave markets" where house workers formerly peddled their services to prospective employers. Talking with the mayor is Mrs. Carrie Bundy, a houseworker.

Charlotte, N. C. News
April 23, 1941

Plan Banquet For Negro Cooks

A banquet for Negro cooks of the city will be given next Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, S. Mint Street. The event is being sponsored by the Charlotte Negro Chamber of Commerce.

Speakers at the dinner will be three well-known women leaders of the city; Mrs. Francis O. Clarkson, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, Mrs. R. M. McKey, president of the University Women, and Miss Gretta Smith secretary of the Charlotte YWCA

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Opening a Job Center

MAY 1 1941

~~NEW~~ WORLD TELEGRAM NEW YORK N.Y.

World-Telegram Photo.

Mayor La Guardia as he was greeted at the Simpson St. Day Work office today.

Job Center Opens In Bronx, Closing 'Slave Market'

MAY 1 1941

Big Crowd Is There, Hears Mayor Tell of Solution of Problem

A fellow with correct information could have been a sensation at 1029 Simpson St., the Bronx, today. MAY 1 1941

There was a terrible crowd in the street, everybody looking, like a bad accident or a big murder. A big crowd, like somebody was fixing the sidewalk.

It was formal opening of the Simpson St. Day Work office, New York's first attempt to break up the slave markets which have flourished on the Bronx streets for ecade or more.

Hired by Shoppers.

Slave markets, so called, have een the groups of domestic help who have waited on the streets to be hired by women out shopping.

Carriages full of kids and market bags, cops, old men with nasturtium beards, blond Bronx dolls, cops, Negro women, more cops, and nobody knew from nothing.

Then the Mayor arrived!

"The Mayor is come!" said an old lady. "The Mayor is come!"

Green groceries sticking from the tops of market bags, black curly hair sticking from the tops of little kids. The cops made way for the Mayor. The Mayor was come. WORLD TELEGRAM

The Mayor Speaks.

"This first step forward," said the Mayor, "this small experiment in co-operation between federal, state and city agencies, will form the basis for the solution of the problem."

For years close-fitted housewives have made a practice of bargaining and chiseling domestic workers into doing their chores for slave wages. In rain, snow and blistering sun the workers have stood in the streets and waited an offer from their economic masters. NEW YORK N.Y.

The job center will be opened from 7:30 a. m. to 4 p. m., Mondays through Fridays, and from 7:30 a. m. to 11 a. m. on Saturdays.

Service Is Free.

The city believes in the job center, and a second center to be opened next week. No charges for the service will be made of domestic workers or their employers.

The speakers, in addition to Mayor La Guardia, included Mrs. Frieda S. Miller, State Industrial Commissioner; Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx; Richard Brockway, director of the New York State Employment Service, and Milton O. Loyson of the State Labor Department.

The Mayor hinted strongly that the city administration no longer would countenance the practice of women standing the streets to obtain jobs. MAY 1 1941

Calls for Co-operation.

"I appeal to the workers to cooperate by going to the job center," he said. "The women, in looking for work, were committing no crime by assembling on the street. We have laws against loitering, but under the circumstances the women could not be chased." WORLD TELEGRAM

All the talking was done inside, however, and handbills were distributed to the crowd in the street to make their time worth while.

"So long as it's a good purpose it's all right," said a lady, reading her circular. "So long as it ain't no accident." New York N.Y.

The cops were cordial, but they kept the populace back. One Bronx boy, unable to see over the crowd, announced frequently "Free beer here tomorrow." And the Mayor left.

SLAVES' LIKE JOB BUREAU

MAY 3 1941

Hiring Center in Bronx Finds Work for 25% on First Day

Sixty Negro domestic workers appeared yesterday morning in the converted store at 1029 Simpson Street, the Bronx, to await employment. Mayor La Guardia formally opened the free "Hiring Center" Thursday to replace the so-called "slave markets" on street corners where Bronx housewives for years have bargained for household help.

At the end of the day Mrs. Grace Riddle, in charge of the new employment bureau, said that 25 per cent of the women had got work for the day. Many housewives phoned for maids. MAY 3 1941

The domestics were highly pleased with the new set-up and said they would appreciate it even more in bad weather.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

Reporters Survey Conditions Here

MAY 10 1941

"Despite the fact that city authorities have established an office in the Bronx which is designed to eliminate sidewalk employment of domestic workers, the Brighton Beach area and certain parts of Fulton St. in Brooklyn still formulate street "slave markets."

A survey revealed that domestics selected from the "market" are compelled to work for as little as 15 cents an hour. According to an elderly woman who was approached in the vicinity of Brighton Beach Ave., the girls get an average of 20 and 25 cents per hour.

One domestic exclaimed bitterly: "I know it sounds funny that we take such small wages, but we've got to eat and pay rent. Most of these women want you to wax floors, scrub windows and complete the whole job in not more than two hours—and for only 20 or 25 cents an hour."

An Amsterdam Star-News reporter did, however, come in contact with four women in the Brighton 5th St. section who said they would not work for less than 40 cents per hour. Two of these workers were hired by white employers while the reporter looked on. MAY 10 1941

Another domestic who appeared worn and tired from her stay in the scorching sun, told the reporter: "It's mighty tough going. It costs us 10 cents carfare to get here. Most of the women want us to work for only two hours which amounts to about 50 cents. Take away the dime and whatta' you got? Only 40 cents and who can live off that? MAY 10 1941

So while the problem is being corrected in the Bronx, the evils of street "slave markets" for Negro domestics still lurk in the heart of Brooklyn with no possible remedy in sight.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Unionization Of Domestics Being Opposed

Dollar Daily Minimum Is Sought by CIO

By **ALBERT C. SMITH**

LITTLE ROCK.—(ANP)—A delayed fight against reported efforts of CIO to organize Negro maids and industrial workers here catapulted into the limelight when Negro leaders openly opposed the union's organization of domestics and warned Negroes to shy clear of CIO representatives.

Heading the opposition against the CIO are Atty. J. R. Booker, president, Negro Chamber of Commerce, and C. H. Jones, secretary of an organization known as Southern Mediators association. Jones reported that he had told 300 workers at a meeting here not to join CIO ranks and warned workers against the danger of being hoodwinked by CIO's proposed unionization and injection of a closed shop racket system into cotton oil mills, compresses, laundries and similar industries.

OCT 24 1941

FOUGHT UNIONIZATION

Said Atty. Booker, "The CIO tried to organize laundresses. We called a mass meeting three weeks ago and stopped that. We feel that we can work out the proper problems of the race without outside help."

OCT 24 1941

The CIO has been attempting to organize at least two large industrial plants here since strike settlement of Local 8-298, International Woodworkers of America, CIO affiliate at Koppers company wood preserving plant at Tie Plant was made. Representatives from CIO International union for this type of worker has been in Little Rock for several weeks, devoting full time to organizing efforts.

OCT 24 1941

While no meeting has been called, it was learned that a nucleus for a union of domestic workers has been formed through individual contacts with maids and cooks. They have as their goal the obtaining of a minimum wage of $1 a day.

JONES IS UNKNOWN

Contact with reputable colored people brought to light that few outside of Mr. Jones seem to know of the Southern Mediators association. However, Jones claims that his organization has a 40,000 membership He is said to be a graduate of Shorter college and managing editor of Arkansas World, colored weekly published here. He is declared to represent a paper organization that works in the interest of southern planters and mill operators.

Jones bases his opposition to CIO organizing efforts on the grounds that most industrial plants under the wage and hour law are conforming with the law, and contends that closed shop is not necessary. Maids who recently quit their jobs after joining the union have returned to work he states, having paid $3.60 to join the union and are required to pay $1 a month thereafter.

OCT 24 1941

Both Jones and Booker are held to be workers hand in glove with white opponents of the union's organizing efforts. Jones, it is said, receives his financial support from white planters and mill owners.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Opening a Job Center

MAY 1 1941

~~New~~ WORLD TELEGRAM
New York

World-Telegram Photo.
Mayor La Guardia as he was greeted at the Simpson St. Day Work office today.

Job Center Opens In Bronx, Closing 'Slave Market'

MAY 1 1941

Big Crowd Is There, Hears Mayor Tell of Solution of Problem

A fellow with correct information could have been a sensation at 1029 Simpson St., the Bronx, today. MAY 1 1941

There was a terrible crowd in the street, everybody looking, like a bad accident or a big murder. A big crowd, like somebody was fixing the sidewalk.

It was formal opening of the Simpson St. Day Work office, New York's first attempt to break up the slave markets which have flourished on the Bronx streets for a decade or more.

Hired by Shoppers.

Slave markets, so called, have been the groups of domestic help who have waited on the streets to be hired by women out shopping.

Carriages full of kids and market bags, cops, old men with nasturtium beards, blond Bronx dolls, cops, Negro women, more cops, and nobody knew from nothing.

Then the Mayor arrived!

"The Mayor is come!" said an old lady. "The Mayor is come!"

Green groceries sticking from the tops of market bags, black curly hair sticking from the tops of little kids. The cops made way for the Mayor. The Mayor was come. WORLD TELEGRAM

The Mayor Speaks.

"This first step forward," said the Mayor, "this small experiment in co-operation between federal, state and city agencies, will form the basis for the solution of the problem."

For years close-fitted housewives have made a practice of bargaining and chiseling domestic workers into doing their chores for slave wages. In rain, snow and blistering sun the workers have stood in the streets and waited an offer from their economic masters. New York

The job center will be opened from 7:30 a. m. to 4 p. m., Mondays through Fridays, and from 7:30 a. m. to 11 a. m. on Saturdays.

Service Is Free.

The city believes in the job center, and a second center to be opened next week. No charges for the service will be made of domestic workers or their employers.

The speakers, in addition to Mayor La Guardia, included Mrs. Frieda S. Miller, State Industrial Commissioner; Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx; Richard Brockway, director of the New York State Employment Service, and Milton O. Loyson of the State Labor Department.

The Mayor hinted strongly that the city administration no longer would countenance the practice of women standing the streets to obtain jobs. MAY 1 1941

Calls for Co-operation.

"I appeal to the workers to cooperate by going to the job center," he said. "The women, in looking for work, were committing no crime by assembling on the street. We have laws against loitering, but under the circumstances the women could not be chased." WORLD TELEGRAM

All the talking was done inside, however, and handbills were distributed to the crowd in the street to make their time worth while.

"So long as it's a good purpose it's all right," said a lady, reading her circular. "So long as it ain't no accident." New York, N.Y.

The cops were cordial, but they kept the populace back. One Bronx boy, unable to see over the crowd, announced frequently "Free beer here tomorrow." And the Mayor left.

SLAVES' LIKE JOB BUREAU

MAY 3 1941

Hiring Center in Bronx Finds Work for 25% on First Day

Sixty Negro domestic workers appeared yesterday morning in the converted store at 1029 Simpson Street, the Bronx, to await employment. Mayor La Guardia formally opened the free "Hiring Center" Thursday to replace the so-called "slave markets" on street corners where Bronx housewives for years have bargained for household help.

At the end of the day Mrs. Grace Riddle, in charge of the new employment bureau, said that 25 per cent of the women had got work for the day. Many housewives phoned for maids. MAY 3 1941

The domestics were highly pleased with the new set-up and said they would appreciate it even more in bad weather.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

Reporters Survey Conditions Here

MAY 10 1941

Despite the fact that city authorities have established an office in the Bronx which is designed to eliminate sidewalk employment of domestic workers, the Brighton Beach area and certain parts of Fulton St. in Brooklyn still formulate street "slave markets."

A survey revealed that domestics selected from the "market" are compelled to work for as little as 15 cents an hour. According to an elderly woman who was approached in the vicinity of Brighton Beach Ave., the girls get an average of 20 and 25 cents per hour.

One domestic exclaimed bitterly: "I know it sounds funny that we take such small wages, but we've got to eat and pay rent. Most of these women want you to wax floors, scrub windows and complete the whole job in not more than two hours—and for only 20 or 25 cents an hour."

An Amsterdam Star-News reporter did, however, come in contact with four women in the Brighton 5th St. section who said they would not work for less than 40 cents per hour. Two of these workers were hired by white employers while the reporter looked on. MAY 10 1941

Another domestic who appeared worn and tired from her stay in the scorching sun, told the reporter: "It's mighty tough going. It costs us 10 cents carfare to get here. Most of the women want us to work for only two hours which amounts to about 50 cents. Take away the dime and whatta' you got? Only 40 cents and who can live off that?" MAY 10 1941

So while the problem is being corrected in the Bronx, the evils of street "slave markets" for Negro domestics still lurk in the heart of Brooklyn with no possible remedy in sight.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Unionization Of Domestics Being Opposed

Dollar Daily Minimum Is Sought by CIO

By ALBERT C. SMITH

LITTLE ROCK—(ANP)—A delayed fight against reported efforts of CIO to organize Negro maids and industrial workers here catapulted into the limelight when Negro leaders openly opposed the union's organization of domestics and warned Negroes to shy clear of CIO representatives. OCT 24 1941

Heading the opposition against the CIO are Atty. J. R. Booker, president, Negro Chamber of Commerce, and C. H. Jones, secretary of an organization known as Southern Mediators association. Jones reported that he had told 300 workers at a meeting here not to join CIO ranks and warned workers against the danger of being hoodwinked by CIO's proposed unionization and injection of a closed shop racket system into cotton oil mills, compresses, laundries and similar industries.

FOUGHT UNIONIZATION

Said Atty. Booker, "The CIO tried to organize laundresses. We called a mass meeting three weeks ago and stopped that. We feel that we can work out the proper problems of the race without outside help."

The CIO has been attempting to organize at least two large industrial plants here since strike settlement of Local 8-298, International Woodworkers of America, CIO affiliate at Koppers company wood preserving plant at Tie Plant was made. Representatives from CIO International union for this type of worker has been in Little Rock for several weeks, devoting full time to organizing efforts. OCT 24 1941

While no meeting has been called, it was learned that a nucleus for a union of domestic workers has been formed through individual contacts with maids and cooks. They have as their goal the obtaining of a minimum wage of $1 a day.

JONES IS UNKNOWN

Contact with reputable colored people brought to light that few outside of Mr. Jones seem to know of the Southern Mediators association. However, Jones claims that his organization has a 40,000 membership He is said to be a graduate of Shorter college and managing editor of Arkansas World, colored weekly published here. He is declared to represent a paper organization that works in the interest of southern planters and mill operators.

Jones bases his opposition to CIO organizing efforts on the grounds that most industrial plants under the wage and hour law are conforming with the law, and contends that closed shop is not necessary. Maids who recently quit their jobs after joining the union have returned to work he states, having paid $3.60 to join the union and are required to pay $1 a month thereafter. OCT 24 1941

Both Jones and Booker are held to be workers hand in glove with white opponents of the union's organizing efforts. Jones, it is said, receives his financial support from white planters and mill owners.

35d-1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Don't Forget Problems of Household Worker

WITH the current emphasis being placed upon highly specialized jobs for national defense, the problems of the household employee are apt to be forgotten. That the thousands of domestic workers, who form so large a segment of our wage-earning population, must not be overlooked is a foregone conclusion.

JAN 18 1941

The Institute of Workers' Education held last week in Richmond under the auspices of the Industrial Department, Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A., deserves special commendation for bringing the attention of community leaders and of workers to the subject. The institute went on record as unanimously endorsing the Wagner amendment bill to extend the coverage of the Social Security Act with respect to old age insurance and unemployment compensation for domestic workers.

Another salient point emphasized at the Institute was the need on the part of household employees themselves for information regarding wages and hours, unemployment compensation, and old-age benefits and other advantages to be derived from their inclusion in the Social Security Act. Special training to raise the standards of household employees was also recommended.

Any efforts to better the working conditions of this group of wage-earners deserves the special attention of all state-wide and local women's organizations. YWCA's and women's clubs and fraternal orders might do well to foster the establishment of training centers for domestic workers, and to make available all information pertinent to the household employee.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Low Pay, Neurotic Employers Merely Two of Many Problems

Servants who live in say they sometimes sleep in attic or basement. Chauffeurs' work may run from cutting grass to making beds.

There is no maxim so true as that there are two sides to every tale, and especially is this true when it is applied to the servant problem.

As pictured by the housewife, who points out bad cooking, scorched linens, broken dishes, dishonesty, indifference and slovenlyness, the story told by the worker is scarcely recognized.

All work, little pay, persecutions of neurotic employers and their spoiled children and unhealthy living conditions are but a few of the complaints that employees in domestic service talk about. Nor are all of these employers of the other race.

Long Hours

In the first place the average employee works from 80 to 85 hours a week depending upon whether he or she gets an occasional Sunday off. The day usually begins at 7:30 or 8 o'clock, and since the average dinner hour is from 6 to 7, the worker must remain until the dinner dishes are washed and put away, which generally is about 9 o'clock.

35d

Theoretically, she gets Thursday afternoon off, and that means after lunch and the general housework, so that if she is off the premises by 4 o'clock, she has done well. Sundays off is a muted question.

Salaries Low

For these long hours, she receives a salary of from $5 and car fare to $20 per week. The latter is an unusual salary, a good average being from $8 to $16, employment agency records and the Maryland State Employment records show.

And when the question of records comes up, there is a nice little one in the Legal Aid Bureau that shows that even when the work is done there are more than a few employers who make a racket of discharging employees before the end of the week, or making charges of thievery, in order to escape paying them.

Living-In

quiry of the Maryland State Employment Bureau and of several employment agencies disclosed the fact that securing servants who will "live in" is actually difficult.

The servants themselves had a lot to say about this, too.

Live in, said one, and you are on duty twenty-four hours a day. "It's Annie, will you just mend this for me when you get a chance," or "Do you mind looking after Billy while we are out tonight?"

FEB 8 1941

"And have you seen the places which they have prepared for us to sleep?" inquired another. "It is usually in the attic or the basement, sometimes over an unheated garage. One place in which I lived-in had a cot in the attic and the only available lavatory for me in the basement. The only way I could take a bath was out of a tin tub and by taking water up in a bucket. And they are always talking about being clean, too!"

Food Poor

A reminder from an employment clerk that at the last place of employment she had been charged with taking food from the place of employment, brought a reply from another applicant: "Huh! I didn't steal the food, I just took it and ate it. If she thinks that I am going to eat that stuff she buys for the servants when I am cooking fine food for her family, she is wrong. No, sir, I didn't steal it."

Investigation showed this to be a common practice of many employees, the food furnished employees being greatly inferior to that provided for the family.

Butlers Vanishing

The job of butlering, with the exception of those having been employed in another generation, is disappearing. Now the man domestic does everything around the house. He cuts the grass, drives the car, serves as houseman and makes the beds. For this he may get from $50 to $100 per month. The latter, too, is an exceptional salary, but may be paid where the man has a knowledge of mechanics and can keep the car in repair. Here again, are exceptionally long hours, for a chaffeur-houseman may be on duty until past midnight when the employer must be brought from the theatre or a party.

These are only a few of the problems of the 33,807 women and 6,385 men engaged in domestic employment in Maryland.

Philadelphia's Plan

An attempt has been made in Philadelphia to some extent to solve the problem through the Philadelphia Institute of Household Occupations, which maintains a training school, a placement bureau and a follow-up service. The latter seeks to check both on the kind of service rendered and the treatment of the employee by the employer. Employment is based upon a written contract, wherein those who live out have a 48-hour week, 2 meals per day, uniforms furnished by the employer and a starting wage of $10 with a guaranteed increase of $2 when the employer has proved her ability. She also gets 25 cents per hour for overtime.

Employees who live in have a 52-hour week in which 2 hours on call is counted as one of work; Sunday and one afternoon off and a starting wage of $8 to be raised to $10.

New York's Bane

The deplorable curbstone employment centers of New York, called by some "slave markets," have been listed as the worst of that city's employment problems.

Here, from 7 o'clock in the morning, until late afternoon, women stand, huddled in doorways or vestibules when it is cold, snowing or raining, until some house wife comes along and offers work. They may get work right away, they may wait half a day or they may wait all day and get no work. They get paid whatever sum they can command, sometimes 20 or 25 cents an hour.

Not only are they subjected to the elements, but often to unscrupulous men, who have other motives than having housework done.

FEB 8 1941

Defense Alters Problem

The use of women in many factories working on defense programs, and the employment of men are making serious inroads on the number of persons available for domestic employment, it was learned, this week.

Women who leave the home for factories not only have better working hours, and benefits of social legislation denied to domestics, but earn more money.

With men earning better salaries on these projects, it was also learned that many wives, heretofore supplementing the home income, have come out of service.

With the husband making sufficient money to support the family, it is no longer necessary for the wife to get up at 5 a.m. to prepare breakfast for her family and arrange for the care of children during the day, before she begins the long hours of toil in another's household.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Close Watch On Servant's Health Urged

FEB 9 1941

To aid county health officials in finding early cases of tuberculosis, Dr. J. D. Applewhite, city-county health officer, yesterday, urged those who give employment to Negro women in their homes to insist on a statement from a physician certifying the Negroes are free from communicable disease.

Dr. Applewhite said this would be a "great help in the general welfare of the community" since 26 out of 64 persons dying from tuberculosis in Macon and Bibb county in 1940 were Negro women. Twenty-two more were Negro men. Eight white persons died from the disease.

Dr. Applewhite pointed out 74 per cent of the deaths from tuberculosis were among Negroes, while Negroes represent only 40 per cent of Bibb county's population.

Tuberculosis is still one of Bibb county's major health problems, Dr. Applewhite said. He urged "greater interest" in this problem if "we are to see a continuous decline in the presence of tuberculosis."

The 64 deaths from tuberculosis last year showed no decrease in the 1939 figure.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa

Job Agencies To Eliminate "Slave Market"

MAR 27 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The Bronx "slave markets", where housewives hire domestic workers at small daily wages, will be replaced soon by two employment stations, according to an announcement made last week by Mayor LaGuardia.

In an attempt to end sidewalk hiring, the stations, one in the East Bronx and the other in the West Bronx, will be run under the supervision of the U. S. Employment Service and the State Labor Department.

"The city appreciates this constructive solution of what has been for a long time a baffling and typical problem, and the city, of course, has tendered to Federal and State officials an offer of full and complete cooperation," the Mayor said.

The Mayor said the procedure will soon be announced to employers and employees. The employment agencies will be run by the Federal and State employment services.

——A Colored Judge——

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Pickets Force Store to Hire Negro Clerks

APR 30 1941

New England Committee Against Job Bias Wins Big Victory

(Special to Intercontinent News)

BOSTON, Mass., April 29.—The Jobs Committee of the New England Congress for Equal Opportunities won its first major victory for jobs for colored workers with a mass picket-line here last Saturday in front of a Stop and Shop chain unit on Washington St., Roxbury. Two colored workers on the picketline were hired to start work immediately.

Hundreds of colored and white people in the neighborhood lined the sidewalks and gave the warmest expressions of solidarity with the pickets. After one hour of boycott by shoppers the management entered negotiations with the committee and agreed to hire permanently two colored clerks to take the places of the white clerks transferred.

This was the first picketline action of the Jobs Committee of the Congress, which has already placed some dozen people to work in stores including Woolworth's. The program of the Jobs Committee has received widespread popular support and won many new friends for the Congress.

When interviewed, Mr. Morgan, chairman of the Committee, declared, "Saturday's successful action is just the beginning of our fight against Negro discrimination in employment. The widespread support of our action by both the colored and white people proves that our program can bring many more victories."

The picketline and negotiations were conducted by Edward Jackson, agent of the Cleaners and Dyers Local, and James Durkin, organizer, United Office and Professional Workers Union. Among the pickets were Miss Zara Dupont and Rev. Donald Lothrop.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Dudley Glass

35d

JUL 1 1941

Thinks $10 a Week For Servants Fine—If They Get It

Story comes to me from several sources that there's a movement under way—with an organizer back of it—to establish in Atlanta and its environs a minimum wage of 10 bucks a week for Negro cooks and house servants—with hours from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m.

That will be fine for the servants. Ten bucks a week is good pay—if you get it.

There's no doubt a good cook is worth 10 bucks a week—if she really is a good cook. But even a blue-ribbon chef couldn't do justice to a cooking job and start home at 4 p. m. It would hardly be time to start dinner.

There are many Atlantans who can afford to pay that much for a good servant—and do. Some pay more.

Here in the benighted south it's different from up north, where many women in comfortable circumstances do their own washing and ironing and scrubbing. Servants are scarce and employers equally so.

But a great many southern women are accustomed to having a servant to do the heavy work. Maybe she's hired by the week, maybe for just one or two days.

These servants, in many cases, are not paid enough. But perhaps they are paid as much as the household budget will stand. A $35-a-week husband can't pay out $10 for household help. That's mathematics.

Good If You Get It

My opinion is that this 10 bucks a week idea is going to cause—while it lasts — a great many housewives to go without household help and a great many servants to wonder where their rent and groceries are going to come from.

The plan wouldn't be so unreasonable if it applied only to good cooks, well trained, who could—and would—handle their jobs and make a home happy and keep a husband from cussing about his food.

But what about the woman who can do nothing besides scrub and wash dishes and put a kettle on to boil—and depend upon the housewife to do all the actual cooking? There are thousands in that class.

I wish all these household servants could get 10 bucks a week. Or 15. I'd like to pay that much myself for a really good one—if I could find her. But I can't afford it. If that plan starts working I can see myself, in an apron, washing dishes, running the vacuum cleaner and trying to master the intricacies of the laundry machines. I'd hate it—but I've tackled many a job I hated.

Her Maid's Car

Speaking of servants, I have one woman friend who has a good one who has been with her for years. She has been fairly well paid and her husband has a steady job.

My friend's husband owns a car, but he uses it often for business travel and they don't think they can afford two.

The husband—and the car—were out of town one day last week when the wife received a telephone invitation to fill in at a bridge party. And she wanted to accept—though I can't say why—and did.

She lives away out in the suburbs, where taxi service is prohibitive. That meant walking and catching trolleys and transferring. She'd never get there.

Her maid had heard the 'phone talk.

"You take my car," she suggested. "It's out in front. I'll stick around till you get back."

So Mrs. Whosit drove up to the bridge party in a neat coupe. And was congratulated upon its appearance. And she never explained. But she did hurry home after the last round of bridge. So Mamie Lou could get her car.

Which reminds me of Isaac. He used to be chauffeur for a family in our neighborhood and now he comes out once or twice a week to mow the lawn or trim the hedge or do odd jobs. Good man, too.

I see his car parked down the street every now and then. It's a Buick of a model of about 12 years ago. He probably bought it at third or fourth hand. But it is slick and shiny and looks brighter than mine, which is four years old, goin' on five. He picked me up one morning and brought me to town—and she was hitting on all cylinders and running like a top. I almost offered him a swap.

The prevalent idea that all Negroes are shiftless and no-account and won't work unless they're starved into it is a bunch of hooey. I know several who started on less than nothing who are a darn sight better off than I am—and have more horse sense.

35d-1941

Time
Chicago, Illinois

Camp Towns. Alexandria nestles behind a levee on the Red River in the middle of Louisiana. On hills bordering the river valley near by, five Army camps were going up last week. In last spring's census, Alexandria had a population of 27,066. By last week this figure had jumped to somewhere between 45,000 and 60,000. Construction of the camps had employed 25,000 men regularly since last September; in one peak week 30,000 were at work. Rooming houses and small hotels had waiting lists twice as big as their capacities. Some of them were turning over their rooms three times a day, renting them for eight hours of sleep.

FEB 17 1941

Everywhere that there was a big camp going up, there was an Alexandria in the South. In Florida, 15,000 men were throwing up a tent-city at Camp Blanding (for 75,000 soldiers) on a flat stretch of white sand 48 miles by automobile from Jacksonville. Some 3,500 of the workmen poured into Starke (normal population: 1,480), eight miles from the camp. Starke's rents jumped from $19-$25 to $50-$60. A waitress paid her boss $5 a week to sleep in a restaurant kitchen. Land around the camp which once sold for $15 an acre began selling for $15 a front foot.

FEB 17 1941

Jacksonville's merchants cashed in on pay rolls both at Camp Blanding and at their own new $25,000,000 Naval Air Base (for 8,000-10,000 men). The city's bank clearings topped $1,000,000,000 last year for the first time since the Florida boom of the '20s. Old residents complained that Negro cooks and maids, whom they had paid $4-$7 a week, were quitting to work for families of Army and Navy officers at $10-$12 a week. The sporting houses on Jacksonville's drab Houston Street expanded their personnel by 200.

Into such spectacular activity, soberminded Southerners could read little longterm meaning. The money poured out for construction of the camps made a mighty splash in boarding houses, restaurants, saloons, movie houses, dance halls, filling stations and ice-cream stands. But once the camps are built the jobs will be gone. Soldiers' pay rolls will keep retail trade bouncing along, but if & when the emergency ends the soldiers will leave too. For a South which needs the tools and factories of modern industry, abandoned dance halls will solve no problems.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Minimum Wages for Servants

The New York Legislature has before it two bills of interest to women.

One allows house servants workmen's compensation if they work forty-eight hours on one premises. The other brings servants under the provisions of the Women's Minimum Wage Law.

If New Yorkers can pass this law, it will be a model for the nation. Meantime, servants need to confer and agree upon what are reasonable wages and hours of work.

FEB 8 1941

There should be, in every city, an organization of domestics for improvement of workers and working conditions, and it should be as popular as the Elks or the social clubs.

The reason every servant has different wages and hours is that no standards have been set up.

We think a sixty-hour week is reasonable, divided into five days of ten hours each and two of five hours each. Minimum pay for servants living in should be $10 a week and $12 for those living out. Overtime should be paid for as extra, and some holidays during the year should be granted.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Cook And Starve

FEB 8 1941

FROM SUMTER COUNTY comes the report that white house wives are protesting against having the WPA employ Negro women cooks as dieticians in the Sumter county colored schools.

Grounds for the objection is, that the house wives would find it difficult to work capable and competent Negro women cooks at the usual wage of $2.50 weekly if the WPA hires them at much higher wages. The likely result is, that the colored schools may have dieticians but, at no pay. The white schools will employ about 100 white dieticians who will be paid.

FEB 8 1941

It seems that no matter the chance to work and earn a fairly decent living the Negro cooks are consigned to, cook and starve.

—From The Charleston (S. C.) Lighthouse and Informer

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Mayor Investigates 'Slave Marts' On Street Corners in the Bronx

85 Women Found in Places Under Scrutiny Testify on Hunt for Jobs After Police Uncover Sidewalk Hiring System

FEB 27 1941

A survey was begun yesterday under the direction of Mayor La Guardia into the so-called "slave markets" in the Bronx, where women domestics and young boys, mostly Negroes, gather daily on a number of the borough's main thoroughfares in search of day-to-day housework. With the cooperation of the Police and Public Welfare Departments, eighty-five women were questioned, voluntarily, in the hope of obtaining a remedy.

Much secrecy surrounded the actual questioning of these women in various Welfare bureaus in the Bronx, and it was carried out without the knowledge of several social and civic committees that have made investigations.

Starting early yesterday morning three buses lent by the Fifth Avenue Bus Company made a tour of at least seven places where these women are known to gather. Riding in the buses were the Mayor's secretary and an assistant, a police lieutenant in uniform and several policemen in plain clothes.

Taken to Welfare Office

Stopping at a designated place, a spokesman for the Mayor would ask the women if they would care to make a voluntary statement. If they so desired, they boarded a bus and were taken to an office of the Public Welfare Department.

Although it was not confirmed, it was said that after making a statement the women were fed and got a day's pay. The amount was not made public.

The "slave markets" long have been a subject of complaints by social and civic workers. Two years ago a formal committee of workers representing many civic organizations was set up by the Industrial Commissioner. A report of their survey was given to the Industrial Commissioner last May, but the Commissioner failed to respond to this report, a committee member said yesterday. It was also said that the survey had not been completed and was progressing very slowly.

FEB 27 1941

The Bronx Citizens Committee for the Improvement of Domestic Workers, headed by three Bronx religious leaders, is reported to be the group responsible for the present survey. The chairman is the Rev. Edler Hawkins, Negro pastor of the Spanish Evangelist Church, 165th Street and Prospect Avenue. Also on the committee is Dr. Jerome Rosenbloom of the Tremont Temple, Grand Concourse and Tremont Avenue, and the Rev. H. Norman Sibley of the University Heights Presbyterian Church, 2167 University Avenue.

Presented Facts of Survey

Last Tuesday the three religious leaders presented the facts of their survey to the Bronx grand jury. Learning of the Mayor's interest in the situation, the grand jurors declined to do anything, saying they believed Mayor La Guardia was capable of remedying the situation.

A member of the Bronx committee said yesterday that Mayor La Guardia's survey was to "ascertain the extent and type of employment offered by these domestics and to observe just how essential the service is and how it affects both employer and employe."

"Because there are no public or private agencies to register these domestics, we are trying to find out how this type of work can be serviced," the spokesman added. "We are hopeful that it will be possible to create a public employment agency modeled after the State Public Employment Agency—but more informal."

It was pointed out that the Bronx committee believes that the "slave markets" constitute an evil and that they seem to be increasing. It was said that not only are women using the street corner for an employment agency but that young boys are also making a practice of it.

FEB 27 1941

Liberties Union Objects

Following a report that the survey had been started, various rumors cropped up concerning the manner in which it was being conducted. The Civil Liberties Union last night issued the following statement:

"According to information reaching our offices from several sources, the Police Department staged a round-up of Negro domestic workers from the streets of the Bronx and held them incomunicado for several hours in at least three district relief headquarters on the pretext of checking their status.

"The situation produced by the so-called 'slave markets' where Negro domestic servants collect on corners to offer their services to prospective employers, demands official attention. But the method used today does not solve that problem. As a matter of fact, it amounts to the intimidation of those workers who have themselves sought to remedy the obvious evil.

"We consider this incident of such a serious nature that we shall investigate and take suitable legal measures in all cases in which there has been any unlawful exercise of police authority."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Slave Market In The Bronx

Dear Sir—Several months ago The Amsterdam News published a series of articles on the Slave Market in the Bronx, one of the five boroughs of New York City. The series was written by Marvel Cooke. They were very enlightening.

MAR 8 1941

A few weeks ago, that crusading daily paper, PM, published a revealing story of the conditions that still exist one step from Harlem, the city's Negro settlement. Instead of being discouraged and abolished, the Slave Market seemed to have grown and thrived by reason of the publicity.

If a Negro condemns the patrons of this abominable condition of exploitation of the Negro by the Jew, the cry of anti-Semitism is quickly raised, but regardless of what cry is raised, there must be an end to this public bartering place in a country outside of the orbit of Hitler's greater Germany.

It is a shameful and malice-provoking practice. It can not be justified, unless we are willing to justify chattel slavery, which, thank God, economic reasons abolished, or the equally shameful treatment of minorities by the Nazis in every country over which they have gained control.

As bad as the labor aspect of this disgraceful practice is, there is another and a baser use to which these bartering corners in the Bronx are being put, I mean pick-up places for prostitutes. Here, decent women, who go out to investigate conditions, are invited to go to "love nests" for dimes and quarters and halves. But, so far, as I know, the police and the city authorities have done nothing to smash this ring of human exploitation, degradation and corruption.

MAR 8 1941

Mayor LaGuardia, Police Commissioner Valentine and the district attorney of the Bronx should wake up.

HARLEM NEGRO.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

85 Women Rounded Up From Corners

MAR 8 1941

Mayor LaGuardia Orders Study of Hiring Problem

NEW YORK, N. Y., (ANP)—Official cognizance was at last given to the so-called "slave marts" of domestic workers here when upon orders of Mayor LaGuardia a survey was immediately begun in order to find a solution to this vexing economic problem.

With the cooperation of the police and public welfare departments, 85 women were voluntarily collected last week from selected corners in the Bronx, where most of these "marts" are said to exist, and taken to nearby offices of the welfare department for questioning.

Although several civic and welfare organizations in the city have from time to time interested themselves in the practice of sidewalk hiring, official secrecy was maintained with regard to the line of questioning followed by investigators. Some resentment too was registered over the manner in which the domestics were rounded up and held "incommunicado for several hours."

MAR 8 1941

Several busses loaned by the Fifth Avenue Bus company were used in visiting at least seven places at which domestic workers customarily congregate in the mornings. The tour was under the direction of one of the mayor's secretaries whose identity could not be determined. He was accompanied by an assistant, a police lieutenant in uniform and several plainclothesmen.

LOW PAY RATE

The problem confronted by investigators is the custom of women domestics, largely Negro, who stand around on street corners in the Bronx and wait for some one to approach them with an offer of day work, generally at an hourly rate below that acceptable to accredited agencies. Thus far there is no regulation or control for the practice conceded by social workers to be an undesirable one.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

LAUNCH 'SLAVE MART' PROBE IN NEW YORK

LaGuardia Orders Investigation

MAR 9 1941

NEW YORK, Mar. 6—(ANP) Official cognizance was at last given to the so-called "slave marts" of domestic workers here Wednesday when upon orders of Mayor LaGuardia a survey was immediately begun in order to find a solution to this vexing economic problem. With the cooperation of the police and public welfare departments, 85 women were voluntarily collected from selected corners in the Bronx, where most of these "marts" are said to exist, and taken to nearby offices of the welfare department for questioning.

MAR 9 1941

Although several civic and welfare organizations in the city have from time to time interested themselves in the practice of sidewalk hiring, official secrecy was maintained with regard to the line of questioning followed by investigators. Some resentment too was registered over the manner in which the domestics were rounded up and held "incommunicado for several hours."

Several buses loaned by the Fifth Avenue Bus company were used in visiting at least seven places at which domestic workers customarily congregate in the mornings. The tour was under the direction of one of the mayor's secretaries whose identity could not be determined. He was accompanied by an assistant, a police lieutenant in uniform and several plainclothes men.

The procedure followed, it is reported, was for one of the party to approach one of the women and invite her to make a voluntary statement. If she desired to do so, she was escorted into one of the buses and taken along with others to the welfare office. Confirmation was lacking for the report that the women were fed and given a day's pay.

The problem confronted by investigators is the custom of women domestics, largely Negro, who stand around on street corners in the Bronx and wait for some one to approach them with an offer of a day's work, generally at an hourly rate below that acceptable to accredited employment agencies. Thus far there is no regulation or control for the practice conceded by social workers to be an undesirable one.

Two years ago a committee was set up by the state industrial committee to probe the matter and report to him. Although a report was presented to him last May, there has been no official comment or response made upon it to date. It was held that this report was incomplete and that progress is very slow.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The Mayor Aids the Slave-Market Employers

• The biggest evil facing the Negro people of the Bronx, as everywhere, is the unemployment. Suffering most are the Negro women, who have been compelled to try to remedy this condition by entering into domestic drudgery on the infamous "slave market."

But instead of attacking these conditions and the employers who are responsible for them, Mayor LaGuardia has his policemen swoop down on the women-victims in a move plainly intended to terrorize them.

Under the pretext of "investigating" conditions, the Mayor is trying to place blame on the women and whitewash the employers. He claims, among other things, that he's trying to find out if they're chiselling on relief. This is not only an insult to the Negro people, but it is an attempt to hide the fact that relief is now wholly inadequate for all recipients, and that Negro families are discriminated against even in this.

Mayor LaGuardia after a so-called overnight "investigation" comes out with the same arguments as the employers: that "there was no exploitation" of these women and that "they have been receiving about 35 cents an hour, and not 10 cents." Everyone who has any knowledge of the notorious slave market situation—and almost everyone has—has his intelligence brutally assaulted by this attempted whitewash. It is common knowledge that the wage these women receive averages about 10 cents an hour for the hardest work; and that even if they got 35 cents, it is less than the Domestic Workers Union rate which is 50 cents for this type of job.

FEB 28 1941

Mayor LaGuardia tipped his hand in claiming the round-up was an "investigation." He has had in his hands for three years the report of the Committee on Bronx Stret Corner Markets, to which he sent a personal representative has evidently been buried alive. If any further information was needed on this scandalous situation the Domestic Workers Union, an AFL affiliate, could have been consulted. Instead, subtle police pressure is applied to the domestic workers to deceive them into looking to his reactionary administration, instead of to their fellow workers in the union.

Aid to the terribly exploited Negro domestic women will not come through the relief-chiselling LaGuardia Administration. It will come through the Domestic Workers Union, supported by all labor and progressives, who can combine their forces to wipe this stench of the slave market from New York.

35d-1941

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
March 31, 1941

Employment Bureau

The Rev. L. F. Bouey, manager of the Colored Employment Bureau, said this morning he wished to correct an erroneous report that applicants to the Bureau had stated they would not work for less than five dollars per week. The Rev. Bouey said that the bureau's minimum wage for domestic servants was $2.50 weekly and the maximum $3.50 and that no applicant had refused to accept this wage scale.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Arkansans Fight Unionization of Domestic Employes By CIO

BY ALBERT C. SMITH

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (ANP) — A delayed fight against reported efforts of CIO to organize Negro maids and industrial workers here catapulted into the limelight when Negro leaders openly opposed the union's organization of domestics and warned Negroes to shy clear of CIO representatives.

OCT 24 1941

Heading the opposition against the CIO are Atty. J. R. Booker, president, Negro Chamber of Commerce, and C. H. Jones, secretary of an organization known as Southern Mediators association. Jones reported that he had told 300 workers at a meeting here not to join CIO ranks and warned workers against the danger of being hoodwinked by CIO's proposed unionization and injection of a closed shop racket system into cotton oil mills, compresses, laundries and similar industries.

SEEK TO ORGANIZE LAUNDRESSES

Said Atty. Booker, "The CIO tried to organize laundresses. We called a mass meeting three weeks ago and stopped that. We feel that we can work out the problems of the race without outside help."

The mass meeting was called on September 14 at Arch Street Baptist church, but very few people were present, with no one representing the workers concerned. Announcement of the meeting was given as: "A mass meeting will be held to discuss matters of vital importance to the race." At the meeting, however, those who attended could not [illegible] what the matters of vital importance to the race were, because sentiment expressed was such that chairman, Atty. Scipio A. Jones, did not bring matters of importance out in the open. The meeting turned out to be just a get-together without any general of specific objective.

OCT 24 1941

35d

The next day, news was released to white newspapers that attendants at the mass meeting had voted and endorsed local laundries as being fair to Negro labor. Observers state however, that no vote was taken or endorsement made by the group.

The CIO has been attempting to organize at least two large industrial plants here since strike settlement of Local 8-298, International Woodworkers of America, CIO affiliate at Koppers company wood-preserving plant at Tie Plant was made. Representatives from CIO International union for this type of worker has been in Little Rock for several weeks, devoting full time to organizing efforts. While no meeting has been called, it was learned that a nucleus for a union of domestic workers has been formed through individual contacts with maids and cooks. They have as their goal the obtaining of a minimum wage of $1 a day.

OCT 24 1941

FEW KNOW OF ASSOCCIATION

Contact with reputable colored people brought to light that few outside of Mr. Jones seem to know of the Southern Meditators' association. However, Jones claims that his organization has a 40,000 membership. He is said to be a graduate of Shorter college and managing editor of Arkansas World, colored weekly published here. He is declared to represent a paper organization that works in the interest of southern planters and mill operators.

Jones bases his opposition to CIO organizing efforts on the grounds that most industrial plants under the wage and hour law are conforming with the law, and contends that closed shop is not necessary. Maids who recently quit their jobs after joining the union have returned to work he states, having paid $3[illegible] to join the union and are required to pay $1 a month thereafter.

[illegible] 4 1941

Both Jones and Booker are held to be working hand in glove with white opponents of the union's organizing efforts. Jones, it is said, received his financial support from white planters and mill owners.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Better Wages for Domestic Servants

35d

THE rising cost of living has brought increased wages for almost every type of workers, skilled and unskilled, except the domestic servant.

State employment offices have numerous unfilled calls for cooks, maids, and houskeepers mainly because employers refuse to pay colored women a wage commensurate with the wear and tear of the tasks they are assigned once they accept employment.

A good, reliable, efficient domestic servant becomes a rarity as long as employers insist upon a maximum of work in return for a minimum wage.

NOV 22 1941

If employes, receiving much more than these women, find it difficult to make ends meet, it is easy to determine the plight of the domestic servant who is expected to keep neat and clean and attractive, remain healthy, and get to work on time in all kinds of weather—on a budget which is the minimum of the minimum.

With the aid and counsel of managers of local employment agencies, it seems possible to us that a conference between representative employers and the servants might prove helpful in improving relations between the two.

As long as employers of this class of workers remain uniformed as to their responsibilities, there will always be general dissatisfaction with the wages paid, and efficient servants will look elsewhere for a livelihood.

35e-1941

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

NO U. S.-BRITISH AGREEMENT ABOUT NEGRO WORKERS, SAYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

New York.—Refuting reports that the United States had agreed to a request by the British government not to send Negroes to work in Trinidad, British West Indies, a letter from the Department of State to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Friday, May 2, reveals that the department knows of "no such request by the British government, nor any such agreement entered into by this Government."

MAY 8 1941

35e

35f-1941

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
June 14, 1941

400,000 Negroes Migrated To North During 1930-40

Latest Census Figures Show Heavy Movement From South In 10 Years

CHICAGO, June 13—(INS)—Despite high unemployment in the nation, more than 400,000 negroes have migrated to the north during 1930-40 Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, declared following a study of new census data.

Dr. Stouffer, who is an authority on application of statistics to sociological problems, offered two reasons for the migration of the last decade which was almost as great as that of the "Gold 20's" when 602,000 negroes left the south.

In the first place, Dr. Stouffer said, the heavy negro population movement indicates that the negro has been losing out, compared with whites, in southern agriculture. Secondly, the negro, unable to make a living in the south and denied relief for the most part, has been attracted by the more bountiful relief of the north, he said.

Defense Program a Lure

"If the defense program offers new job opportunities to negroes in the north, there is every reason to expect the flow northward of negroes to "continue and even increase," Dr. Stouffer said.

"In the two decades before the depression negroes left the south by the hundreds of thousands to find jobs in northern industry. The curtailment of foreign immigration created a labor shortage in northern factories which negroes could fill.

"The depression, however, hit the negroes harder than any other ethnic group in the north. By 1935, one out of every three negro workers in the north was on relief. And still the negroes swarmed north, contrary to expectation.

Relief Contrast in 1935

"In 1935 less than 5 per cent of the negro workers in Mississippi, for example, were receiving relief as compared with nearly 30 per cent in New York."

Net loss by migration in the south was accompanied by net gains in the border states. Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri of 76,000 and in the north and west of 327,000, Dr. Stouffer pointed out.

Dr. Stouffer struck a blow at certain trade unions which ban negroes from their ranks, declaring this was one obstacle which the negro worker did not have to face in the last World war.

"If the negro can not break into the defense program in large numbers, the continuation of his northward trek probably will be determined largely by the relief policies in the northern states," he said.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

OAKIES AND ARKIES GET JOBS

NOV 16 1941

More Are Coming to California Than Ever Before, but This Time It Is Different

35f

35-f

By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15—Penniless, drought-driven Okies and Arkies, who crossed desert and High Sierra in their overburdened jalopies in the latter Nineteen Thirties to pour into this "promised land" by the tens of thousands, are being followed by relatives and neighbors in even greater numbers in this boom year of 1941.

Shacktowns which sprang up by the dozens in the Imperial, Sacramento, San Joaquin and Salinas Valleys are crowded with old residents and new. The rural slums are growing even larger in some districts, in spite of the efforts of the Farm Security Administration to cope with the migratory housing situation through its chain of model camps.

But the rural slums and the model camps this year are caring for only part of the new Okie-Arkie migration. They have their counterparts near the great defense centers. For this record-breaking wave of migrants is drawn to California not primarily to pick cotton or fruit or, for that matter, to do any farm work. It has its eyes on the $3,000,000,000 worth of orders that have put California in the forefront of the nation in defense work. These new migrants want jobs in the sprawling aircraft factories of Los Angeles and San Diego, in the shipyards of San Francisco.

Prospects for Future

Californians are keeping one eye on the State border count—which shows the "manual worker" migration this year, by automobile, to be perhaps 30 per cent higher than that of 1937, the peak year of the Dust Bowl influx—and the other on the prospective size of future tax rates for relief purposes.

In the first nine months of 1941 the inspectors of plant quarantine stations reported the entry of 85,452 persons whom they judged to be "in need of manual employment." This is greater than the count for all of 1937 and exceeds the whole estimated influx of the gold-seeking Forty-Niners.

NOV 16 1941

The migrants came from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Illinois and even a few from the Eastern Seaboard States. But more than one-fourth of this whole company were traveling in cars with Oklahoma license plates. And nearly 45 per cent were from Oklahoma, Arkansas or Texas.

Younger Migrants

There is noticeably a high percentage of employables and of young people in the new migration, compared with the movement of a few years ago. The California Department of Employment has found that in Los Angeles County at least 50 per cent of the incoming workers are under 30.

An analysis of new applications for jobs in the aircraft industry, made by the Los Angeles office of the department in September, showed that 62 per cent of the applicants registering during a ten-day period never had been employed in California and 57 per cent had been in the State less than a month.

NOV 16 1941

According to Professor Paul S Taylor of the University of California, who has studied the farm migrant problem for years, this 1941 migration has a pattern which seems to carry the participants first to the aircraft centers. Should they fail to land jobs there they try other defense plants. If their efforts again are fruitless they turn to agriculture, for which between one-fourth and one-fifth of the total population movement into California presumably is fitted.

Shortage of Farm Labor

Paradoxically, in spite of the record-breaking migration, there has been a shortage of farm labor this year in some areas, where farm hands have been unable to resist the lure of defense wages. In contrast with the situation a few years ago, many a California farmer now is glad to see Okies and Arkies.

At the moment, the Department of Employment reports 260,498 registered applicants for jobs. But California believes it is doing a fairly good job of absorbing the flood of migrants. The acute economic problem, according to State officials, is one for the future. The migrants, they point out, are building up rights to unemployment benefits and relief.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NEGRO MIGRATION TO HARLEM HEAVY

NOV 19 1941

Starvation Conditions in Some Sections of Deep South Cited as Reason

NATIONAL PROBLEM SEEN

35-f

Urban League Official Asserts Not Only City but U. S. Must Help Relieve Needy

NOV 19 1941

During the hard times of the Thirties, in which relief and other social benefits here accentuated the higher living standards of Northern cities compared to the deep South, the non-white population of New York City increased by 135,130, according to census figures tabulated by the Department of Welfare. The non-white population increased from 343,216, or 4.95 per cent of the total, in 1930, to 478,346, or 6.42 per cent of the total, in 1940.

Not only did the non-white population of Manhattan, which includes Harlem, the city's largest Negro district, grow by more than 75,000, but an exodus from overcrowded Harlem helped increase that of Brooklyn's new Negro section by almost 40,000. There were smaller increases in other boroughs.

Welfare Department statistics show that the approximately 125,000 relief cases in New York City include about 32,000 Negro cases of 72,000 persons, or about 26 per cent of the total relief roll.

For a family of four the average home relief here amounts to $81.48 a month, including $59.60 cash and the rest consisting of food stamps, free milk, medical care and the like; for a family of five, $96.45 a month, including $69.10 cash; for a family of six, $110.62, including $76.80 cash. There are about 63,500 persons in WPA in New York City, of whom between 20 and 23 per cent are officially estimated as being Negroes.

In contrast to New York's comparatively high relief benefits, the latest figures available at the offices of the National Urban League here are contained in an FERA report showing that in certain Southern counties in 1936 the average monthly relief budget for Negro families was $8.31; for white families $12.65.

NOV 19 1941

Comparison with Alabama

Whereas the Negro's wage list in the North is stated by the National Urban League to be $10 or $15 a week, a study of Negro tenant farmers in an Alabama rural county made by Charles S. Johnson and Will W. Alexander about five years ago showed an average cash income for Negro tenant families of $105 a year, including relief allowance where made.

Emphasizing that the "miserable existence" of Negroes in the North "can be riches compared with some of the wages paid in some sections of the South, not only to Negroes but to whites as well," Lester B. Granger, assistant secretary of the National Urban League, said yesterday that persons living in the conditions prevailing down South will manifestly "continue to escape where possible by moving to localities offering better opportunities."

He said that the problem of Harlem was clearly a national one, which should be solved not only by improving the condition of the Negro in New York, but also by improving the condition of the Negro in the South, so that he would not consider it necessary to migrate here.

The conditions that exist, he asserted, can be improved only by a national attack, including higher unemployment insurance and other social security standards, better schools, hospitals, housing and judicial processes.

Puts Question Up to City

"A conscious recognition by New York citizens of the interdependent nature of social problems in the North and in the South," he added, "will make them realize that it is imperative to relieve Harlem conditions, to be sure, but no local program can be completely effective in the long run unless it is backed up by national action."

Saying that the "much-advertised conditions in city Negro neighborhoods in New York are serious enough to engage the thoughtful attention of all New York residents," Mr. Granger added it should be pointed out that "the low economic status of Negroes and the unwholesome social conditions that continue to develop in Negro neighborhoods are an inevitable result of the attitude of New York City toward its Negro poplation."

NOV 9 1944

"Much has been made," he continued, "of the migration of Negroes into the city from the South. Observers overlook entirely the fact that approximately as many white Southerners as Negro Southerners have left their homes and migrated to New York City and New York State in search of opportunity. No noticeable 'problem' has been created by the migration of whites because these have been accepted by their fellow New Yorkers as simply new residents, accorded all of the opportunity and privileges that older residents have enjoyed for themselves. Thus, white Southerners coming to New York have been speedily integrated into the population as a whole.

Different With the Negro

"It has been the contrary with Negroes. Instead of being accepted, they have been rejected by the older New York population, have been confined to certain residential areas, certain occupational callings and to a lower economic and social condition than that desired and enjoyed by the majority of old New Yorkers.

"Thus present conditions, which have been so much overadvertised and misadvertised in the daily press, have been inevitable. Some New Yorkers have felt that arbitrary steps might be taken to reduce migration, or at least that Negroes might be discouraged from moving to New York and other Northern cities if lack of opportunity were sufficiently advertised. This is a fallacious reasoning. As a matter of fact, New York City has actually had less migration of Southern Negroes than many other Northern cities, proportionately speaking.

"What has happened in New York City has happened in most important industrial and commercial centers where job opportunities are expected to be found. Even if New York were to reduce standard of living and opportunities for its Negro citizens to an even lower point than now exists, these standards could not possibly be reduced to the level of the isolated rural communities and city slums from which many of our Southern newcomers have escaped. As a matter of fact, it has been the finest kind of social instinct that has motivated these migrations of whites as well as Negroes; namely, the pioneer urge to escape from an unfavorable and unfruitful environment into a more fruitful one where opportunities are better.

Starvation Real Reason

"It is not that the 'riches' of the North attracts Negroes, but that the starvation of so many sections of the South ejects them. While we are taking steps to improve conditions in New York City, similar steps must be taken to improve conditions for Negroes in that part of the country where the majority are now located—the deep South. Such improvement would include larger employment opportunity, better housing conditions, better health and educational facilities, and more secure enjoyment of the civil liberties that are supposedly the possession of every American."

Welfare Commissioner William Hodson agreed with Mr. Granger that the Harlem problem was a national one, because of the migration from the South to New York and other northern cities.

"The problem can not be beaten," he added, "until there is a larger measure of economic justice for Negroes in all parts of the country."

He said the fact that it is basically a national problem, however, should not prevent New York from doing everything it can to improve conditions here.

35f-1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DEFENSE PROGRAM MAY PLACE MORE NEGROES ON RELIEF

JAN 1 1 1941

By HORACE R. CAYTON
Author, Labor Expert

JAN 1 1 1941

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Cayton has been connected with the research staff of the University of Chicago for five years. The problems of Negro migration and the problem of Negro labor have been his main interests. For a year Mr. Cayton was a member of the staff of the National Resources Committee which issued several reports on the distribution of labor and our natural resources. Recently he was called to testify before the House of Representatives Committee for the Study of Interstate Migration of Destitute People.

Negroes should watch carefully the present investigation of the House of Representatives Committee on the Interstate Migration of Destitute ci~~tizens. Since the first~~ World ~~War more~~ than a million and a half Negroes have migrated from the rural South to the urban North, and most of this migration has been to a relative few of the largest population centers in the East and Middle West. The per cent of the total Negro population located in the South has changed from 7.7 per cent in 1890 to 14 per cent in 1930 (340,000 Negroes lived in the North in 1860 as compared with nearly 3,000,000 in 1930).

Mr. Cayton

This tremendous movement of people is one of the greatest migrations in modern times. It has changed, to a large extent, the theater of the Negroes' struggle for participation and status from a rural to a metropolitan setting. It has changed what were probably America's only "folk people" to urban sophisticates. It has made possible for thousands of Negroes a higher standard of living; greater access to education and cultural institutions; and penetration in the social, economic and political structures of the cities of the North.

Most of all, this movement of people has created in the minds of the migrants a critical attitude toward the old Southern "caste system" which has made them question the justice of both the old South and the limited extent to which they are allowed to participate in the society of the Northern cities. Any impartial observer would admit, we believe, that the migration has benefitted the Negro in many ways. It has also had its drawbacks for the adjustment in the cities was difficult for a semi-peasant "folk" and oftimes the environment to which they came was hostile. Such problems as health, housing, crime, juvenile delinquency were intensified in the urban mileau.

GREAT MIGRATION DURING WORLD WAR

There has always been some migration of Negroes into the Northern states. In the early 1800's there was a small but steady flow of Negro freedmen and slaves through the "underground railroad." After the Civil War there continued a trickle to all large cities in the North. It was not, however, until the period of the first World War, and immediately after, that large groups of Negroes deserted the South. The great waves of Negro migration to the Northern states occurred between 1916 and 1919 and between 1921 and 1924.

In the former period the net increase of Southern-born Negroes to the North was about 321,890 which represented an increase of about 45 per cent to the Negro population of the North. Between 1920 and 1930 the number of migrants to the North was almost a million and represented an increase of 63 per cent to the Northern Negro population.

At this period of our national history, Negro migrants to the North were welcomed. The difficulty was getting them away from the South. For the Negro migrants there was both a "push" and a "pull," which made them willing to brave the displeasure of irate plantation owners and catch an excursion train to Chicago or New York.

The economic "pull" of the North were the high wages and better positions created by the need for a new supply of industrial labor caused by restrictions imposed, first by war and then by the quota laws on European immigration.

WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN LABOR POOL

This, added to the acceleration of industry to meet the war time needs, made the Negro an important factor in the labor "pool" of Northern industry.

Negro laborers were solicited throughout the South by agents for such industries as steel and meat packing, and often they and their families were given free transportation to the North.

In some instances, the entire community, including the teacher, preacher and merchant came together. Labor was at a premium and the Negro was the only group to fulfill that need. In a very real sense Negroes contributed greatly to the winning of the war by the contributions they made in keeping industry abreast with the wartime needs.

The "push" which made Negroes willing and even anxious to move northward came from the unfavorable conditions unde which they were forced to live the South. The boll weevil had endangered the whole cotton culture and the economic deprivation made Negroes more aware of the disparity between the high wages, superior social and education institutions and civil rights which might be enjoyed in the North, and the jim crow laws, poor schools, peonage and lynchings from which they suffered in the South. In addition, Negroes too, were affected by "the lure of the city" which was part of the general process of urbanization and influenced all classes of people.

RACE RIOTS DISCLOSED STIFF COMPETITION

After the close of the war there was a general tightening of our economic system and Negro migrants no longer came in large numbers or were they as welcome. A wave of race riots swept over the country which attested to the intense competition which was going on between the Negro migrants and the white workers for jobs in industry and over the use of various community facilities.

More recently it has been alleged that a new stream of migrants has been set in motion by the superior wages and allotments which are enjoyed by Negroes in the North from relief agencies.

The fear that Negroes are coming North to get on the W.P.A. has frightened many of the "better people," the civic leaders, social workers and Chambers of Commerce. This sentiment was responsible for Illinois passing a law requiring a three years' residence before persons were eligible for relif (this law incidentally affected many more whites than Negroes).

DEFENSE PROGRAM TO AFFECT RELIEF

JAN 1 1 1941

The simple explanation of the present migration of Negroes in terms of coming North to get on the WPA ignores the forces which were set in motion during the mass migration and imputes to the illiterate Negro sharecropper of the "deep South" knowledge of the involved laws of settlement and the labyrinth of state and municipal regulation surrounding the relief legislators which it would be impossible for him to have.

It is difficult, however, to prove or refute such an argument. Indeed, an increase of Negroes registered with social agencies or employed by the WPA does not establish the fact that new migrants are coming. It is just as logical to assume that an increasing number of Negroes (who live much closer to the poverty line), have been unable to maintain themselves any longer and must seek public assistance. As the rearmament program absorbs more and more men, it can be predicted that the per cent of Negroes (not necessarily the number), on the relief rolls will incrase until in large centers such as Chicago and New York, the relief population might be fifty to seventy-five per cent Negro. This possibility indeed is one of the factors behind the agitation for the control of interstate migration.

The racial prejudice which is to be found within most classes of white citizens in America, is being augmented by the sharp fear of the possible increase of taxes from an increased (or continued) relief load. This has made large groups of persons aware of the "Negro problem" of the cities and has robbed Negroes of the tolerance of a group of persons with whom they have not previously been in direct contact. In many cities the building of a school in the Negro area, the beginning of a hospital drive, the installation of a traffic light, or any other minor improvement calls forth from great numbers of these groups a reiteration of the prevalent myth concerning further Negro migration.

We believe with the Committee of the House, that some control of interstate migration is highly desirable. The difficulty in attempting to plan a migration policy in respect to the Negro is that racial prejudice might encourage policies which would act as a precedent for stripping Negroes of their Constitutional rights.

With the failure of a three-year settle law, such as was passed in Illinois, undoubtedly there will be attempts to legislate more directly against Negroes on the basis of color.

That these laws would not be Constitutional will not necessarily deter persons from introducing them. It is obvious that this form of legislation strikes at the heart of our democratic ideology which is more important to preserve at the present time than is the development of a migration policy. It is certain, however, that as long as the myth of huge Negro migrations continues, extra legal method, including discriminatory behavior on the part of public officials and agencies, and even vigilante movements might develop.

NEGRO WORKER STILL IN LABOR POOL

It has been pointed out that Negroes were needed to meet the expanding industry during the first World War. At the present time the Negro constitutes the only labor pool from which an expending war economy can draw. If America should become involved in war, doubtless the situation of 1916 would be repeated and labor agents from Chicago would again scour the South to offer free transportation to sharecroppers. Many of the persons now connected with the basic industries who are decrying the possibility of further Negro migration might of necessity have to reverse their position. Any barriers to population movements, even if legal, might in a critical moment seriously hamper the rearmament program.

It is our opinion then, that attempts to control the migration of Negroes on the part of persons who are afraid that he might become a public charge, are dangerous. There is no doubt that if a "fair" method of distributing the population (black and white), in relation to the natural resources of the country and the needs of industry would be of social usefulness.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Jersey Mob Victims Collect Damages in Court

APR 18 1941

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — An unspecified amount of money running into "several hundred dollars" has been collected to date in behalf of the seven Negro migratory workers who, in 1939, were beaten by an armed mob in Cranbury, N. J., and ordered out of town, David Robinson of Neward, attorney named by the Workers Defense league to handle the cases, announced this week. These collections, part of a federal jury verdict of $9,000 won by the mob victims, have been made in spite of transfers of ownership, removals and departures from jobs by those found guilty. It was said that innumerable "legal" obstructions have been set up to hamper the full collection of the judgment.

APR 18 1941

The disappearance of O. D. Streator, one of those originally brought up to pick potatoes in the Jersey town, has been announced. His last known address is 410 N W. Fifth avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The WDL is seeking to determine his whereabouts.

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

NEGRO MIGRATION TO NORTH GROWING

WASHINGTON. An increased migration of Negroes from the South to the North occurred during the last decade, the Census Bureau reported today.

The white population of the South increased more rapidly than the non-white. In contrast, the whites increased at a slower rate than non-whites in all other sections except the Pacific Coast States.

(United Press)

MAY 15 1941

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

DIXIE'S NEGROES FLOCK TO NORTH

403,000 Are Said To Have Migrated During The 1930-40 Decade

CHICAGO, May 15 — (AP) — Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, has estimated that 403,000 Negroes migrated from the South to the North during the 1930-40 decade.

Among the reasons for the movement, he theorized, were the possibilities that "the Negro has been losing out, as compared with whites, in Southern agriculture," and that more widespread relief in the North was an attraction.

Dr. Stouffer, director of research of the Social Science Research Council, studied the new census data and concluded:

"If the defense program offers new job opportunities to Negroes in the North, there is every reason to expect the flow northward of Negroes to continue and even increase."

He reported that 682,000 Negroes came North in the 1920-30 period; 439,000 in the 1910-20 era, and 110,000 in the 1900-10 decade.

Of the 403,000 who left the South between 1930 and 1940, he estimated that 76,000 went to the border states of Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri; 138,000 to New York, 56,000 to California, 44,000 to Illinois, 28,000 to Michigan, 20,000 to Pennsylvania, 18,000 to Ohio, and 13,000 to New Jersey.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

403,000 Negroes Migrate to North in 1930-40 Decade

(The Associated Press)

Chicago, May 15.—Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, estimated that 403,000 Negroes migrated from the South to the North during the 1930/40 decade.

Among the reasons for the movement, he theorized, were the possibilities that "the Negro has been losing out, as compared with whites, in Southern agriculture," and that more widespread relief in the North was an attraction.

Dr. Stouffer, director of research of the social science research council, studied the new census data and concluded:

"If the defense program offers new job opportunities to Negroes in the North, there is every reason to expect the flow northward of Negroes to continue and even increase."

He reported that 682,000 Negroes came North in the 1920-30 period; 439,000 in the 1910-20 era; and 110,000 in the 1900-10 decade.

Of the 403,000 who left the South between 1930 and 1940, he estimated that 76,000 went to the border states of Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri; 138,000 to New York, 56,000 to California, 44,000 to Illinois, 28,000 to Michigan, 20,000 to Pennsylvania, 18,000 to Ohio and 13,000 to New Jersey.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
May 20, 1941

A Steady Migration

Migration north of southern negroes continues, not as heavily as in the years just after the World War but apparently in a considerable and fairly steady stream.

It worries us not at all.

Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, estimated that 403,000 colored people left the South for other parts of the country during the 1930-40 decade, the chief lure probably being higher wages and higher relief rates.

A wholesale exodus of southern negroes doubtless would be unwholesomely upsetting of the economies both of the South they left and of the North to which they went but a gradual exodus such as is taking place ought to be helpful to all concerned, unless perhaps an exception is to be made of the North.

The South can adjust itself to having fewer negroes and be better off because of it in the long run.

And the negroes themselves by scattering out probably will fare better, economically and perhaps otherwise.

It will mean two things for the southern whites, more work but higher standards, neither of which will do us any harm.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 30, 1941

A HOPEFUL OMEN

An appreciable reduction in Negro migration from the South to the North in the last decade is noted, though the figure is still high. Decent standards of living, and a square deal for our Negro population is one of the South's problems of today. The two races that inhabit this section have made commendable strides in amity and mutual understanding and in bettering their joint economic lot. But much remains to be done.

Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, has estimated that 403,000 Negroes migrated from the South to the North in the decade 1930-40. This compares with 682,000 for the ten years 1920-30, 439,000 for 1910-20 and 110,000 for 1900-1910.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO POPULATION FLOWS NORTHWARD

400,000 Make Trek From Dixie During 1930-40

By International News Service

JUN 9 1941

CHICAGO, June 7.—Despite high unemployment in the Nation, more than 400,000 negroes have migrated to the North during 1934-40, Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, declared following a study of new census data.

Dr. Stouffer offered two reasons for the migration of the last decade which was almost as great as that of the "Golden 20s" when 602,000 negroes left the South.

In the first place, Dr. Stouffer said, the heavy negro population movement indicates that the negro has been losing out, compared with whites, in Southern agriculture. Secondly, the negro, unable to make a living in the South and denied relief for the most part, has been attracted by the more bountiful relief of the North, he said.

"If the defense program offers new job opportunities to negroes in the North, there is every reason to expect the flow Northward of negroes to continue and even increase," Dr. Stouffer said.

In the two decades before the depression negroes left the South by the hundreds of thousands to find jobs in Northern industry. The curtailment of foreign immigration created a labor shortage in Northern factories which negroes could fill.

"The depression, however, hit the negroes harder than any other ethnic group in the North. By 1935, one out of every three negro workers in the North was on relief. And still the negroes swarmed North, contrary to expectation.

"In 1935 less than 5 per cent of the negro workers in Mississippi, for example, were receiving relief as compared with nearly 30 per cent in New York."

Net loss by migration in the South was accompanied by net gains in the border states, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri of 76,000 and in the North and West of 327,000, Dr. Stouffer pointed out.

JUN 9 1941

Dr. Stouffer struck a blow at certain trade unions which ban negroes from their ranks, declaring this was one obstacle which the negro worker did not have to face in the last World War.

"If the negro can not break into the defense program in large numbers, the continuation of his Northward trek probably will be determined largely by the relief policies in the Northern states," he said.

35f-1941

West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
April 20, 1941

Contrast Reported On White And Negro Migratory Camps

A contrast in experiences with white and negro migratory labor in government camps is drawn by Paul Vander Schouw, supervisor, Florida Migratory Labor Camps, in his narrative report, completed Saturday, for the quarter ended March 31. His offices are in the Comeau Building.

To Affect Procedure

The differences were noted in the operation of the Osceola Camp for white workers and the Okeechobee Camp for negroes, and will affect procedure in new camps, he said.

Regarding the negroes in the Okeechobee Camp, the report stated: "Many of them have known no other home than the poorest of outhouses and ditch-bank shacks, and no other social life afforded than the lowest type of 'juke-joint'."

"Our experience," it said, "in getting a true measure of the problem from the Okeechobee Camp will help us to avoid many mistakes in starting these new camps. We will not in the future assume that the problems and their solution are altogether parallel in the camps."

During the quarter 351 families used the Osceola Camp. On March 31 it housed 169 families with 664 individuals. Total rent delinquencies for the quarter in this camp were less than $90, the report said.

$10 Average Delinquency

In the same period the Okeechobee Camp served 455 families. On March 31 it housed 225 families, with 832 individuals. Families delinquent in rent payments numbered 192 at this camp, with the average delinquency more than $10. The report said that the negro workers, mostly bean pickers, were particularly hard-hit by heavy rains.

After the arrival of equipment for mattress-making, 180 mattresses were made in the camps during March. The report also mentioned increased use of sewing machines for repairing used clothing presented the workers.

It noted progress in community activities, with workers living outside the camps, because of lack of space for them within, being encouraged to participate. Each camp has a play leader, a weekly motion picture show, Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups, a student council, and a "mothers' and dads' club."

1,565 Clinical Cases

In a separate report on the Migratory Labor Health Association established here last Jan. 6, Mr. Vander Schouw said that 1,565 clinical cases were listed during the quarter, with seven births and six cases requiring hospitalization.

This report stated that an ambulance-station wagon combination, bought to serve the camps, is now kept in West Palm Beach, but will be transferred later to the hospital which is to be built for migratory workers.

Mr. Vander Schouw said the hospital, to be located on a site about a mile and a half south of Belle Glade and two and a half miles north of the Okeechobee Camp, will have wings for both white and negro workers.

Specifications have been sent to contractors. Bids will be asked for about May 15, he said.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 15, 1941

Negro Migration Figures Reported

CHICAGO, May 14.—(AP)—Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, estimated tonight that 403,000 Negroes migrated from the south to the north during the 1930-40 decade.

Among the reasons for the movement, he theorized, were the possibilities that "the Negro has been losing out, as compared with whites, in southern agriculture," and that more widespread relief in the north was an attraction.

Tuskegee News
Tuskegee, Alabama

Cities Need Rural Youth Migration

MAY 7 - 1941

35f

THE migration of country youths to the city, widely regarded as a regrettable development, is a necessity if the cities are not to die out. The American city population will decline about 24 per cent each generation if the present birth and death rates continue, and if there is no migration in from rural area.

In contrast, the rural farm areas will increase about 36 per cent in each generation if the present birth and death rates continue and the rural non-farm areas, including villages and distant suburbs, will increase about 16 per cent. Unless birth trends are radically altered, future increases in city and town population will entirely depend on migration from rural regions, it is stated by the U. S. Bureau of Census.

MAY - 1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Thousands Leaving Farms for Cities

35f

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Population shifts in areas where Negroes are largely concentrated show a marked trend from rural districts to urban centers, according to a recent report of the 1940 census on the South Atlantic Division of the United States.

This division comprises the states of Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, W. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

MAY 3 1941

NORTHERN SHIFT SLIGHT

In Delaware and Maryland, migration from the country to the city since 1930 has been slight. The District of Columbia, which has no rural districts, shows a nonwhite population increase of more than 50,000 for the ten year period ending in 1940. This increase in the nation's capital, however, is not due wholly to farm mimgrants from the South Atlantic Division, but represents all states.

MAY 3 1 1941

In Virginia, over 20,000 farmers have left their homes in the last ten years for urban centers, and rural nonfarm communities have attracted 10,000, the report shows. These figures do not take into account the large numbers making their way to industrial centers during the present year, due to the expanding national defense program.

On the other hand, West Virginia nonwhite farmers have increased over a thousand, while the cities and rural nonfarm communities of the state have retained about the same population level since 1930.

50,000 LEAVE GEORGIA FARMS

MAY 3 1 1941

The Carolinas and Georgia have had unusual decreases in Negro farmers, the largest being in Georgia, which shows a drop of approximately 50,000. Both South Carolina and Georgia migrants from the farm have passed by the rural communities, the report indicates, and gone on to urban centers.

In Florida, some 5,000 more turned to farming since 1930. The shift from the rural nonfarm communities has been high, with the cities of the state gaining over 50,000.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

A HOPEFUL OMEN

An appreciable reduction in Negro migration from the South to the North in the last decade is noted, though the figure is still high. Decent standards of living, and a square deal for our Negro population is one of the South's problems of today. The two races that inhabit this section have made commendable strides in amity and mutual understanding and in bettering their joint economic lot. But much remains to be done.

MAY 3 1941

Dr. Samuel A. Stouffer, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, has estimated that 403,000 Negroes migrated from the South to the North in the decade 1930-40. This compares with 682,000 for the ten years 1920-30, 439,000 for 1910-20 and 110,000 for 1900-1910.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Exodus from Farm Grows, 1930-'40

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Negro farmers have decreased nearly 200,000 throughout the United States, with the South showing the greatest drop, for the past ten years, according to 1940 census returns just released. However, in the west the increase has been over 8,000 for the period.

MISSISSIPPI LARGEST

MAY 31 1941

The report shows a total of over 700,000 farmers in the United States for 1940 as compared with 900,000 for 1930, with nearly 95 per cent being in the south. Mississippi ranks first with over 150,000; Alabama, 70,000, and South Carolina, 60,000. Virginia has 35,000.

The largest decrease in Negro farmers was in Texas, with over 33,000. Other large decreases were in Georgia, 27,000; Mississippi, 23,000; Arkansas, 22,000, and Alabama, 20,000.

MAY 31 1941

LEAD IN 3 STATES

In three of the 16 farming states reported, Massachusetts, New Jersey and West Virginia, 96 percent of the nonwhite farmers were Negroes in 1930. In each of the remaining states for which increases were reported in the 1940 census, Negro farm operators are small. Especially is this true of California, Arizona, and New Mexico. These three states had 84 per cent of the total increases for the 16 states.

About 280,000 Negroes own their farms in the United States, the southern states leading with 140,000; South Atlantic, 60,000; East South Central, 40,000; West South Central, 39,000, according to the 1940 returns of the census.

Milssissippi leads with 20,000, followed by Virginia, 18,000; Texas, 16,000; the Carolinas, 13,000. Ownership increased in most of the southern states between 1930 and 1940.

MAY 31 1941

Sharecroppers dropped considerably throughout the farming areas in the country, with the South losing nearly 100,000 in the last ten years. Texas, Georgia and Arkansas led with decreases of over 20,000. The report showed other large decreases in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Alabama. Mississippi remained practically unchanged.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TODAY'S TALK

WAYS STILL SOUGHT TO JUSTIFY PROGRAM OF WHITE SUPREMACY

MAY 24 1941

BY A. N. FIELDS

DR. SAMUEL A. STOUFFER, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago stepped aside momentarily from his usual studies to reveal that he had ventured into a new field and had given some consideration to the new census data. This had to do with the migration during the past ten years of Negroes from the south.

A. N. Fields

Dr. Stouffer in his findings discovered that 400,000 Negroes had left their homes in the south and come north and in his effort to find justification for their travel he says, "That the Negro has been losing out, compared with whites, in southern agriculture; and that Negroes came north TO GET ON RELIEF." It is quite likely that the professor has something in all of his findings but his conclusions are rather shallow in sound reasoning.

MAY 24 19

IF Dr. Stouffer had looked deeply into his subject matter before rendering a decision he would have changed the word ON RELIEF, to read, that they came SEEKING RELIEF from certain economic, political and social conditions which made life unbearable where they then resided.

WE HAVE HOPES

But it is not expected that those who specialize in doing research work of the life of Negro people, to draw conclusions based upon a spiritual interpretation of the conditions surrounding those they are studying.

Negro people like others, have hopes, ideals and ambitions. They recognize the fact that they are a part of a national unity—or at least a country so designated—yet they are not unmindful of the fact that they live in a separate and distinct world from the numerous other racial identities.

CERTAINLY it is much easier for a Negro to get on relief in the north than in the south, because after you leave the Mason and Dixie line there is at least some semblance of fairness in the distribution of federal relief. Negroes are not allowed in many states of the south to receive even what the government has allotted them. In many instances it has been reported that Negroes receiving government checks have been compelled to turn them over after making their mark, for white men to cash and then the Negro to whom the check was made out to, was compelled to accept what was handed out to him without protest.

MAY 24 1941

DIXIE LANDLORDS

This became such a vicious pracice that the government was compelled to abandon its plan of sending checks to landlords, due to complaints that tenants were not receiving their just proportions. The Negro leaving the south and coming north did not have as his prime objective GETTING ON RELIEF but rather to get the benefits of that form of relief which the government at the instance of the tax payers has set aside for those who needed it.

IT WOULD be interesting if Professor Stouffer would turn some of his acknowledged ability and ascertain for the benefit of the tax payers, both white and black, just how much money was stolen from the public treasury under the pretense of relief. He would no doubt learn in all probabilities that the cost of distribution of the relief money was nearly as expensive to the government as the amount distributed.

THIS KIND of a study would however involve a different set of citizens and such findings would interfere with the social and political standing of those whom Dr. Stouffer would not desire to become a part of his social science research.

MAY 24 1941

It is observable college professors who usually exercise their pent up energy by writing half truths about American Negroes, using as little of their intellectuality as possible.

This is of course a part of a gigantic scheme to hamper the Negroes progress as a man and to nullify his rights as a citizen and to justify the sinister program of white supremacy.

35g-1941 ALABAMA

Pittsburgh Courie
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NINE NEGROES DIE IN ALA. MINE DISASTER

JUL 26 1941

BIRMINGHAM, July 24—(ANP)—Nine Negroes were among the eleven men who lost their lives Thursday night when an explosion destroyed a passage-way inside the Acmar Mine [illegible] in St. Clair county. The exact cause of the explosion has not yet been determined, and mine officials said they were not only unable to account for the gas seeping into the passageway but also for its ignition.

The bodies of Early Jennings, Willie Green, James Vann, Samuel Barnes, A. McConnico, Preston Brown and C. H. Nathan have been recovered and identified. One other body has not been identified as Eddie Bryant or Edgar Fritz, both of whom are known to be dead. These two were the only one killed by falling rock.

JUL 26 1941

35g-1941

ALABAMA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RAILROAD FIREMAN SEEKS $50,000 OVER SENIORITY RIGHTS

35

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 4—Bester William Steele, fireman on the L. & N. railroad, filed suit in the Circuit Court against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen for $50,000, charging destruction of his seniority rights and job discrimination. This represents the second action taken by the International Association of Railway Employes and the Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen against the white brotherhood for discriminations imposed on colored firemen.

Steele has been a fireman on the L. & N. since 1910 with a brilliant service record. By virtue of his seniority he was assigned to the firemen's "pool" on the Southern and Northern Alabama division, which is the best assignment in the district. On April 7 the lily-white brotherhood, which bars Negroes from membership, caused Steele to be taken out of the "pool" and replaced by a junior white fireman, member of the brotherhood.

The International Association held conferences with representatives of the L. & N. and the brotherhood, but could get no results. Steele next filed his suit against the railroad and the brotherhood, asking $50,000, restoration of his seniority rights and a permanent injunction to prevent the brotherhood from representing Negro firemen.

The case is in the legal hands of Attorneys Arthur D. Shores of Birmingham, J. T. Settle of Memphis, Joseph C. Waddy and Charles H. Houston of Washington.

35g-1941

ALABAMA

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 3, 1941

Large Portion Of 'Town Of Holt' To Go On Auctioneer's Block

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—(AP)—A considerable part of the "town of Holt" will be sold under the auctioneer's hammer at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse at noon Tuesday, according to terms of a Federal Court order setting out plans for the sale of property of the Central Iron & Coal Company, a firm which has been in receivership for a number of years.

Bidders for the holdings will be required to post a deposit of $10,000 in certified check or cash. A minimum bid of $100,000 was set by the Federal Court for consideration in the sale.

Property covered by the sale order includes 379 houses at Holt, industrial village six miles northeast of Tuscaloosa. Approximately 777 acres, all in Tuscaloosa County, are covered in the sale.

The houses, many of which are occupied by white and Negro employes of the Central Foundry Company, a separate firm, and the Gulf States Paper Corporation, which is located near Holt, constitute the only remaining Tuscaloosa County property of the Central Iron & Coal Company.

The village of Holt was established in 1902 when the Central Iron & Coal Company began operations of a blast furnace, coke ovens, by-products plant and a pipe foundry. In recent years the furnace, coke ovens and by-products plant have been idle. Last October the Warrior River Coke Company took an option to purchase the by-products plant and the 60 coke ovens and the option has now been exercised. Operations of this part of the plant are expected to start at an early date.

The furnace, coke ovens, by-products plant and certain mining properties of the Central Iron & Coal Company were sold at court auction to a New York firm last August. The Jefferson County property known as "Valley View" has not been sold and is not included in the sale set for Tuesday. The Jefferson County area includes approximately 106 acres in the vicinity of the Vulcan Statue on Red Mountain near Birmingham.

The sale here Tuesday will be conducted by V. C. Scott, of Birmingham, federal receiver.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Hear The Celebrated Sons Of The South From Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

FEB 22 1941

This internationally famous quintet will be heard in a series of programs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5 to 5:15 p. m. over radio station K. T. R. H. beginning Friday (today).

The broadcasts will be sponsored by the Nehi Bottling Company, makers of Royal Crown Cola "Best By Taste Test."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

FAITHFUL SERVANT DIES

MAY 7 - 1941

Veteran Janitor At University Of Alabama Passes

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., May 6—(AP)—University of Alabama medical students Tuesday mourned the passing of "Old Bob," veteran Negro "head janitor" of the medical school who died suddenly of a heart attack Monday afternoon while walking in Nott Hall, where the medical school is situated.

"Old Bob" is Bob Nelson, 60, who had been janitor at the medical school for 21 years. Dean Stuart Graves said he held the affection and respect of all students and medical alumni. Faculty members and students are now collecting a purse which will be given his family consisting of the widow and three children.

MAY 7 - 1941

Students and faculty members of the medical school plan to attend funeral services in a body Wednesday.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

TAKING HOUSTON BY STORM

MAR 1 1941

Musical Group Is Big Hit Here; Heard On Station KTRH

The Sons of the South, nationally famous quintette of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, are getting a tremendous ovation from both white and colored music lovers of Houston. They are appearing currently over KTRH on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5 to 5.15 p. m. Their concert appearances are wide and varied. They are in popular demand by both white and colored audiences throughout the churches, schools and entertainment centers of Houston.

When interviewed, Mrs. A. U. Munday, secretary of the Booker T. Washington Sales Agency, the agency under whom these artists operate, stated that the Sons of the South are already boked for fourteen engagements with six others pending.

These artists have sung over many of the country's leading radio stations over both NBC and CBS networks and have given a command performance for the president of the United States. They have been brought to Houston by the Nehi Corporation of Columbus, Ga., and the Nehi Bottling Company of Houston. They are appearing at churches and schools throughout Houston through the courtesy of the Nehi Bottling Company, makers of Royal Crown Cola and Nehi fruit flavors.

They may be reached through their sponsors, Capitol 0339, or their secretary, Fairfax 6441.

Leroy Brown is director of the singers, while S. J. Phillips is publicity and advertising manager of the celebrated group.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

35-9

Protest Forces Southern Firm To Pay Equal Wages To Negroes

Hillman Acts When Company Refuses To Sign Contract With Union Because It Contained Same Rate of Pay For Colored Iron Workers.

APR 5 - 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 3.—Prompt protest to the office of Sidney Hillman, OPM co-director in Washington, secured the signing of a contract between the Ingalls iron works in this city and local 529. American Federation of abor, after the management had alked at signing the contract be- ause it guaranteed the same vages and security for Negro la- or workers and whites.

The difficulty was reported to he national office of the N.A.A. .P. by Dr. E. W. Taggart, prominent dentist here and member of he national N.A.A.C.P. board of irectors. The national office wired Mr. Hillman, and two sentatives were sent to Birn ham. The union stood pat the company finally signed.

APR 5 - 1941

In the judgment of the loc negotiators, "the most far-reachin gains" for Negro labor were made in the approved contract, and its terms are expected to affect Negro workers elsewhere.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Veteran Negro Employe Of Local Postoffice Dies

APR 8 - 1941

Nickolas E. Abercrombie, 617 High Street, who served as a clerk in the local postoffice for over 41 years, died yesterday morning early.

A graduate of Tuskegee Institute, of the class of 1888, he was appointed in 1893 by Judge Buckley, and served under the administration of eight postmasters until Sept. 30, 1934 when he retired.

APR 8 - 1941

At the time of his retirement he received commendatory letters from high ranking officials of the government, including the Postmaster General for his excellent service record. During his service he served as clerk chief mailing clerk, and special clerk and for several years prior to leaving the service, was in charge of second third and fourth class mail.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Veteran Negro Hostler Of Fire Station Here To Get Trip To Derby

APR 29 1941

"Wing," a 62-year-old Negro who came to No. 1 Fire Station 46 years ago as part of a horse trade, and who drove the chief's buggy to all fires in the late 90's and early 20's, is going to see his first horse race Saturday.

He is leaving Tuesday night for Louisville for the Kentucky Derby because firemen here took up a collection which bought his train and race track ticket and because the stepson of a former fire chief, now residing in Louisville, is going to see that he is provided for while there.

He has been known through the years as "Wing"—a nickname which he said he earned in his youth because of his spreading feet—but his real name is Albert Rayford, a native of Alabama's Black Belt.

Busy preparing to leave for the great event, Wing told a News reporter Tuesday morning, he didn't know "how much they took up for me," but his beaming face attested his great appreciation and anticipation of the approaching trip to the Blue Grass state.

APR 29 1941

"Mr. Jim Sparrow," said "Wing," "is going to take care of me when I get there." Sparrow, stepson of former Fire Chief J. L. Akin, formerly resided in Birmingham.

According to Wing, 46 years ago when the city was dickering with the Fies Livery Stable for the purchase of six fire horses, Chief Thad Mullins wouldn't okeh the final trade until the livery stable promised to include Wing in the trade.

From that day on, Wing has been one of Birmingham's firefighters. For years he drove the chief's buggy to the scenes of fires, commanding one of the fastest-stepping horses this city had ever seen.

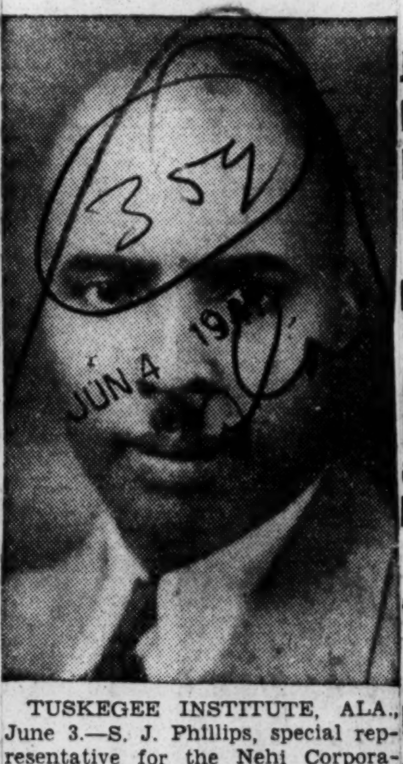
Not only did he drive Birmingham's No. 1 fireman in a buggy pulled by the city's ace fire horse, but he supervised the training of all new fire horses. He had to change their paces and develop the nervous, ever-ready temperament essential to a fire horse. Among his fondest recollections, Wing said, are the days when he used to train and exercise young fire horses by racing them on Birmingham's side streets.

When the truck replaced the wagon, he learned to drive the auto, and continued as chauffeur to latter-day fire chiefs.

In more recent years, he has served as handy man at No. 1 station, although he still bears the same old title of hostler, that was given him when he first came here with the six fire horses.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Representative



354

JUN 4 1941

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., June 3.—S. J. Phillips, special representative for the Nehi Corporation of Columbus, Ga., who resides at Tuskegee Institute, Ala., stated that the celebrated "Sons of the South," who are sponsored by the makers of Royal Crown Cola and Nehi Beverages, have just completed a tour through Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

JUN 4 1941

He also states that the "Sons of the South" will fill a four weeks' engagement in St. Louis, Missouri; four weeks in Cleveland, Ohio, and four weeks' in Cincinnati, Ohio; that the Nehi Corporation is making a definite contribution to America by helping to keep alive the negro spirituals in their original charm and beauty, in which the negro expresses his joys and sorrow.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Negro Architect and Contractors to Build Air Base at Tuskegee Institute

WASHINGTON.—The War Department announced Saturday, June 7, that contracts for the construction of an air base at Tuskegee, Ala., have been awarded to McKissick and McKissick of Nashville, Tenn., for construction, and to Hilyard R. Robinson, Washington, D. C., architect.

JUN 2 1941

The total estimated cost of this construction is $1,480,295. Both the architect and the contractors are Negroes.

The air base at Tuskegee will be the headquarters of the 99th Pursuit Squadron which will be made up of Negro pilots and airplane mechanics. More than 200 young men are in training now at Chanute field, Rantoul, Ill., as mechanics. Pilot training will begin at Tuskegee in October.

JUN 13 1941

It is expected that Captain Benjamin O. Davis Jr., now stationed at Tuskegee and Maxwell field, Montgomery, Ala., will head the 99th squadron. He was transferred to Alabama recently from Fort Riley, Kas., where his father, General B. O. Davis, is commandant of the Fourth Cavalry Brigade.

JUN 13 1941

35g-1941

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Virginia

Race Workers Hired On Jobs In Arkansas

JAN 11 1941

Defense Openings Result of Protest; Work Satisfactory

NEW YORK CITY—Negro skilled workers, at first passed over when they applied for national defense jobs, according to the Little Rock Urban League. The league has been active in securing consideration for local Negro workers on jobs handled under national defense contracts.

Last fall when construction work on Camp Joseph T. Robinson first began, the Little Rock Urban League discovered that, though white carpenters were being referred to the employing contractors in large numbers, no Negroes had been so referred.

Clifford E. Minton, executive secretary, immediately got in touch with the National Urban League and the local organization in St. Louis, since the main headquarters of the construction company was located in that city.

JAN 11 1941

COOPERATIVE ACTION

As a result of prompt cooperative action by the three offices, the St. Louis company agreed to employ Negroes and the Arkansas State Employment officials agreed to refer qualified Negro carpenters to the Camp Robinson job.

The latest report of Mr. Minton gives the following information: At least 50 Negro carpenters are now on the job at Camp Robinson, together with about 15 Negro concrete finishers, who earn $1.25 per hour, several Negro bricklayers and at least one Negro plumber. The latter worker was originally referred to the camp as a laborer, but through League intervention was reclassified and made foreman of a crew of 40 men on gas line construction.

WORK SATISFACTORY

Especialy pleasing to the Urban League executive is the report of the white supervisor over the carpenters, who states that the work of the Negro carpenters was very satisfactory; that the group as a whole is doing efficient work, with some of them doing excellent work. The men themselves report fair treatment and pleasant working conditions.

ARKANSAS

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

COMMUNITY WANTS RACE POSTMASTER

35g

JAN 14 1941

MENIFEE, Ark., June 12— A petition to be filed with David Terry, member of Congress, requesting the appointment of a colored postmaster is being circulated among the residents, in this all race community, under the auspices of the Committee on Negro Organization.

This action followed a trip to Washington where W. Harold Flowers, Pine Bluff attorney and CNO secretary, held conferences with post office department officials pertaining to the appointment of a Negro postmaster. In June, 1940, a civil service examination was held and three Negroes were placed on the eligible list for the vacancy. Upon the filing of a protest by the CNO as to the delay in making the appointment, an investigation conducted by the Civil Service Commission resulted in the disqualification of Mrs. Sadie B. Woods, who held first place on the eligible list.

Flowers revealed to the residents at a recent mass meeting that the postoffice department refuses to make an appointment from the two persons who remain on the eligible list. The eligibility of the two candidates, John Rochelle and Bernice Mabin expired on June 8.

35g-1941

CALIFORNIA

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Three Negroes in Aircraft Fabrication Production

JAN 3 - 1941

LOS ANGELES.—(ANP)—John H. Owens, 18-year-old graduate of the aircraft fabrication department of the Santa Monica Technical college, is one of the three colored boys among 60,000 airplane workers in southern California to actually get a job in the fabrication end of the plane industry under the national defense program.

Owens is a regular employe of the Douglas Aircraft corporation of Santa Monica. After graduating from Polytechnic high school with a good record, Owens was given a free scholarship in the Santa Monica Technical college, through the NYA. He was promised a job if he could make the grade. along with one other colored boy and five white boys of his class.

Owens completed the course with a perfect record both as to attendance, efficiency and manual skill and was given a job in the fabrication department upon completion of the course. The National Negro congress in conjunction with several locals of the CIO industrial unions for aircraft workers are pushing for the employment of more colored aircraft workers. Owens is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Owens, well known for their active interest in civic affairs of Los Angeles.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

3 NEGROES IN PLANE JOBS

JAN 4 - 1941

Trio Gets Positions in California Aircraft Fabrication Production

LOS ANGELES — John H. Owens, Jr., 19-year-old graduate of the aircraft fabrication department of the Santa Monica Technical college, is one of the three colored boys among 60,000 airplane workers in Southern California to actually get a job in the fabrication end of the plane industry under the national defense program.

Owens is a regular employe of the Douglas Aircraft corporation of Santa Monica. After graduating from Polytechnic High School with a good record, Owens was given a free scholarship in the Santa Monica Technical college, thorugh the NYA. He was promised a job if he could make the grade, along with one other colored boy and five white boys of his class.

Owens completed the course with a perfect record both as to attendance, efficiency and manual skill and was given a job in the fabrication department upon completion of the course. The National Negro congress in conjunction with several locals of the CIO industrial unions for aircraft workers are pushing for the employment of more colored aircraft workers. Owens is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Owens, wel lknown for their active interest in civic afafirs of Los Angeles.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Only Three Race Men Fabricate Airplanes

JAN 11 1941

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(ANP)—John H. Owens, Jr., 19-year old graduate of the aircraft fabrication department of the Santa Monica Technical College, is one of the three colored boys among 60,000 airplane workers in southern California to actually get a job in the fabrication end of the plan industry under the national defense program.

Owens is a regular employe of the Douglas Aircraft corporation of Santa Monica.

35g Calif

[redacted]

[redacted]

35g-1941

C. C. C.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

359

CCC 'Profs' Back To School

AUG 7 1941

Educational advisers of the CCC (Third Corps Area), held their ninth annual conference at Hampton Institute last week, and heard their national director say that the CCC would devote all its efforts to defense activities in the future. Some of the delegates attending the conference are shown, front row, (left to right), Dr. B. M. Tignor, district educational adviser, southern district; M. Benton, district educational adviser, southern district; Dr. O. Ward, assistant corps area educational adviser; Michael Perry, district educational adviser, northern district; Dr. Gordon Bennett, corps area educational adviser; Chaplain William B. Marsh, central district; T. C. Walker, lawyer, Gloucester, Va.; Walter R. Brown, dean of men, Hampton Institute.

Second row: Henry C. Johnson, Pannellville, Md.; Campbell Waters, Amherst, Va.; C. J. Grinnell, Galax, Va.; Joel Carter, Beltsville, Md.; C. E. Brown, Yorktown, Va.; R. L. Duren, St. Stephens Church, Va.; Henry Liva[illegible]ttysburg[illegible].; M. B. Jones, Austin, Pa.; A. F. Williams, Bethesta, Md.; C. P. Harris, Coburn, Pa.; Lorenz Graham; A. D. Watson, Cabin John, Md.; W. D. Elam, Beltsville, Md. Back row: William Tyler, Beach, Va.; Earl Smith, Westport, Pa.; Oscar Pindle, Phillipsburg, Pa.; Richard Bell, Beltsville, Md.; Booker T. Smalley, White Hall, Va.; Clarence Davis, Amelia, Va.; B. B. Oliver, Cumberland, Va.; James Taylor, Keysville, Va.; James Childs, Carksville, Va.; C. H. Clark, Appomattox, Va.; and Edward Dabney, Westover, Md.

AUG 7 1941

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

JONESBORO IS SEEKING TO RETAIN CCC CAMP

OCT 23 1941

Reports Circulated That Building May Be Dismantled

Special to The Commercial Appeal

JONESBORO, Ark., Oct. 22 — Jonesboro business men were mobilizing Wednesday behind a drive by the Chamber of Commerce to either retain the Civilian Conservation Corps camp here or to have it made into some sort of national defense project.

359

The movement was given added impetus with the circulation of reports that the building here might be dismantled and the materials salvaged and used elsewhere and that the camp equipment might be sent to Mississippi County for use of a CCC camp for negros, scheduled for establishment there.

The ituation is one of those in which it is practically impossible to obtain any official nforimation. The only information reelased to date is a formal statement by the regional offices of the Soil Conservation Service at Fort Worth that the camps at Jonesboro and Berryville would be closed Nov. 1.

A. J. Troxell, area supervisor for the CSC, who has supervision of the Jonesboro camp, along with several others, received a telephone call from the Little Rock headquarters Tuesday ordering him to disband the camp as quickly as possible after Nov. 1.

OCT 23

At the present time there are 174 enrolees at the Jonesboro camp. A survey shows that the camp has been a valuable asset to the business life of Jonesboro in the past several years. Of the present enrolment, 79 men are attending Arkansas State College, which is one of the principal points of Jonesboro business men. A total of 8 past and present CCC enrolees have received CAA pilot training and 30 more are planning to enroll in the training course, since they have completed 27 semester hours of college work.

OCT 23 1941

Many messages protesting removal of the camp were sent to Senators Hattie W. Caraway and Lloyd Spencer to Representative E. C. Gathings and other officials. It is reported that Mrs. Caraway has been in communication for several weeks regarding the possibility of removal of the camp.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Why Can't CCC Camps Have Colored Heads?

NOV 8 1941

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa.—A protest against the use of all white officers in CCC camps was made this week by David K. Boozer, mess steward at the CCC reception center here.

"Why shouldn't we have colored company commanders, subalterns, and State superintendents," declared Mr. Boozer in a letter to the AFRO, "since our taxes help support these camps and pay the salaries of the administrators?"

359

High Pay to Whites

The writer pointed out that except for doctors, all other administrators, usually including two officers and five technical service men at each camp, are white. Their salaries, he said, range from $1800 a year for subalterns, to $2,600 and $3,200 for commanding officers and doctors.

Having enrolled in the CCC in October, 1940, Mr. Boozer said he was soon made post exchange steward and four months later was rated a leader and put in charge of mess.

NOV 8 1941

Many Eligible

During this time, he said, the white junior officer was called to active duty with the regular army and he was named acting junior officer and has been recommended for the position of subaltern or second lieutenant.

Mr. Boozer contends that there are many colored youths at these camps who have proved their ability to fill administrative positions and that they should not be barred from them because of racial discrimination.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgi

Duke Of Windsor's Visit To Negro CCC CAMP Flusters Boys

359

Pointed Questions Asked by Former King of England

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The Negro CCC camp at Beltsville Md., interested the Duke of Windsor immediately when he visited that establishment Friday morning, en route from Baltimore to Washington where he was to be entertained by te British ambassador.

With the 200 enrollees lined up for inspection by the Duke the camp was thoroughly "policed" and the men themselves were ship shape for an inspection by a former king, who himself was a World war veteran.

OCT 24 1941

Going through the lines of enrolees, the duke asked snappy questions in his close cropped English.

ASKS QUESTIONS

"What state are you from?" he asked as he came to a sudden stop before a flustered enrolee. "How much did you weigh when you came to the camp?" he'd ask another. "How do you like the camp life?" would suddenly be shot at still another man.

OCT 24 1941

Buildings in the camp were gone through and a general tour made of the beautifully landscaped area.

Forty minutes was given to the inspection when the motorcade of 12 cars started to Washington. Another stop was made at the agricultural experimental center nearby, and here the duke was greatly interested in the ditch digging carried on by colored enrollees. He asked how deep the ditches were; whether the top soil was the hardest to dig through, and when told that this was true, he laughed and said:

"Oh, yes, I see, got the hardest part done first. I should know. I used to dig ditches myself"
hmit..r dd qandof

Still interested in the plight of the miners in Wales, he discussed briefly what went on in their work.

The duke was impressed with the colored camp and said the boys were some of the finest looking chaps he had seen.

From the colored camp, the duke was taken to a white camp near Washington.

OCT 24 1941

Making the tour with the duke's motorcade which included secret service cars, motorcycles, newspaper men, representatives of the British government and the director of the CCC Camp, James J. McEntee, other CCC officials, Edgar G. Brown, director of racial relations for the CCC, Ralph Matthews of the Afro-American and Al White of the NAACP, with Photographer Scott of the Afro-American rounding out the party

---

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGROES TO TAKE OVER CLARKSDALE CCC CAMP

OCT 29 1941

White Youths Insufficient Now To Carry On Work

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Oct. 28.—Camp Whittington near Claremont, which has been operated for the past two years by the Civilian Conservation Corps and which has quartered some 200 white boys, will be occupied by negroes in the near future, according to information announced Tuesday by the Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce. The CCC camp here is sponsored jointly by the Government, the Chamber of Commerce and drainage district commissioners.

Due to the many white youths who are enrolling in the service of Uncle Sam, and others who are taking defense jobs, it is impossible to keep sufficient boys in the camp to carry on the work, according to Arnold Wurz, superintendent of the camp.

OCT 29 1941

James Meadow, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that negro CCC boys would be satisfactory to the people of this section to provide the labor needed on the drainage projects.

Jesse DuBois of McComb, district officer, conferred with authorities here Tuesday relative to the transfer of negroes to the camp.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

150 NEGROES ARE SENT TO CLARKSDALE CAMP

359

Replace White Boys Who Left CCC Project

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Nov. 3.—One hundred and fifty negroes from Philadelphia, Miss., were transferred to Clarksdale Monday for service in Camp Whittington, near Clarksdale, in the government Civilian Conservation Corps. Owing to the fact that the majority of white youths heretofore enroled in the camp have entered some branch of Uncle Sam's fighting forces, or taken defense jobs, it was impossible to keep the required quota at the local camp.

Twenty more negro youths will arrive Monday night or Tuesday and the quota probably will be increased to 100, according to Arnold Wurz, superintendent.

The CCC camp in Coahoma County is sponsored jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and district drainage commissioners. Youths enroled are assigned to drainage work in Coahoma and adjoining counties. Officials state that the work carried on will be equally efficient with negroes, who are probably better equipped for the physical labor required than the white youths.

Mr. Wurz stated Monday that the personnel of the officers in the camp would remain unchanged.

Columbia S C. State
November 3, 1941

CCC CAMPS . . . . The 27 CCC camps which have been in operation in South Carolina for some time are to be reduced in number. Some of the companies in the camps are to be disbanded and the young men in them transferred to other locations.

Camps to be or already disbanded are located at: Frogmore, in Beaufort county; Edgefield, Cheraw, Pickens, Jacksonboro in Colleton county and Pontiac in Richland county. All of these camps are for white boys. It was said last week that companies in two other camps would be disbanded during the month of November.

Negro boys in three CCC camps are to be transferred to new locations during the month; some of them will go to camps from which white boys have been transferred.

When the shifting and disbanding program has been completed, 19 CCC camps will remain in the state. Two veterans' camps will also be maintained.

35g-1941

CCC

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
January 5, 1941

1,346 to Be Enrolled by CCC In South Carolina This Week

35-g

Columbia, Jan. 4.—(AP): The state public welfare department announced today that 1,778 South Carolina boys would be enrolled in the civilian conservation corps this month. Of these, 1,688 will be whites and ninety negroes.

A total of 1,346 will be enrolled January 10 and the others later in the month. The state has twenty-seven CCC camps.

The enrolment, by counties, follows, listing white first and negroes next:

Abbeville, twenty-five and four; Aiken, thirty-eight and none; Allendale, ten and four; Andrews, 120 and six; Bamberg, thirty-four and eight; Barnwell, thirty-five and four; Beaufort, none and five; Berkeley, ten and five; Calhoun, ten and none; Charleston, nineteen and none; Cherokee, fifteen and none; Chester, twenty and none; Chesterfield, thirty and none; Clarendon, twenty and none; Colleton, thirty and two; Darlington, fifteen and none; Dillon, forty and none; Dorchester, twenty and none.

Also, Edgefield, twenty-five and four; Fairfield, thirty and none; Florence forty and none; Georgetown, thirty-five and five; Greenville, fifty and six; Greenwood, forty and three; Hampton, twenty and four; Horry, forty and none; Jasper, ten and two; Kershaw, forty and none; Lancaster, forty and none; Laurens, forty-five and two; Lee, twenty and none.

Also, Lexington, twenty-five and none; Marion, thirty and none; Marlboro, thirty-two and none; McCormick, twelve and six; Newberry, twenty-five and eight; Oconee, 150 and none; Orangeburg, forty and four; Pickens, 100 and none; Richland, fifty and none; Saluda, twenty and three; Spartanburg, 157 and none; Sumter, twenty and none; Union, thirty-six and none; Williamsburg, thirty and five; York, thirty-five and none.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

To Hire Negro Subalterns at 150 CCC Camps

JAN 17 1941

WASHINGTON. — The war department has forwarded instructions to the commanding generals of the nine corps areas authorizing them to employ Negro subalterns in the 150 colored Civilian Conservation Corps camps, it was announced at the office of James J. McEntee, director of the CCC.

"Negro reserve officers who are in inactive status and officers of the active reserve who fail to qualify for military duty, may be considered for vacancies in the officer personnel of CCC camps," the war department announcement stated. "Negro educational advisers who have been on duty with the CCC and colored enrollees who have demonstrated their fitness will also be eligible for appointment as subalterns.

"At present there are two CCC companies, one in the Second Corps area and one in the Third Corps area, officered and commanded entirely by colored personnel. There is a single subaltern serving in the Fifth Corps area and one in the Eighth Corps area. Negro enrollees constitute about 10 percent of the CCC. In 150 camps all of the enrollees are colored. Some 70 other camps have one or more colored enrollees."

A colored educational adviser is on duty at each of the 150 colored CCC camps, Mr. McEntee said. In addition to these educational advisers, colored doctors and chaplains have been assigned to CCC duty during the past five years.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Negro Heads For all CCC Colored Units

JAN 11 1941

As the result of an executive order issued from the White House Monday, 148 jobs for Negroes in the Civilian Conservation Corps have been created as commanding officers for all Negro camps.

The jobs pay from $2100 to $2600 annually.

After conferences between War department officials and the director of the CCC, the success of two camps with all-Nero personnel convinced the administration that all camps should be administered by Negroes.

JAN 11 1941

Applicants for the positions should apply to the Corps area commanders. Preference is being given to reserve officers, educational advisers, senior foremen and enrollees.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Subalterns and Medics Appointed

35-g

For ANP
WASHINGTON.

Fifty new subalterns (commanding officers) and seven medical directors have been named to the CCC, according to an announcement from the office of Director McEntee.

Several hundred additional enrollees and former education advisors, according to the report of the War Department to McEntee, are in training at the several special subaltern schools, clerk schools, radio schools and cooks and bakers' schools, located at Gettysburg, [illegible], Flintstone, Md., Zanesville, Ohio, Greensboro and Americus, Ga., Munford, Ala., and Mt. Gilead, N.C.

New York Gets 7

Those appointed as subalterns are as follows:

JUN 7 1941

New Jersey, Andrew W. Byron, Leon Pierce, Harold K. Wilson and William F. Hatcher; New York, Andrew O. Dalrymple, Edward G. Clark, Harry E. Jackson, Cleveland B. Tiry, James R. Williams, William Jicock, William E. Griffin; Maryland, Joseph W. Broaddus, Marion A. Thorpe;

35-g

Pennsylvania, Earl H. McCrary; Ohio, James F. Dunn; Michigan, Eugene S. Browning; Illinois, Howard L. Wright, Edward Lyons, Wisconsin, William Pryor; Missouri, Emmitt R. Newell, Elmer R. Sffuires; Delaware, James M. Rudd.

JUN 7 1941

Medical Directors

Medical officers are assigned as follows: Dr. Ratcliff, Nebraska-Kansas district; Dr. Lawrence P. Schumake, Missouri; Dr. Chester A. Gordon, Maryland; Dr. Royal D. Keane, Ohio; Dr. Arnold H. Maloney, Jr., Michigan, and Dr. James E. Trotman, Illinois.

More appointments will be made in the future, it is reported,

---

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Youth Commission Lists Desired Changes in CCC

JAN 3 - 1941

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Hitting the four agency control of the CCC, the American Youth Commission in a report made public last week also recommended, among other things, that additional Negro supervisors be added.

The commission went on record as favoring the use of all Negro personnel in the 50 all Negro camps.

Blasting the manner in which the CCC is conducted, branding it as a "disjointed organization," the commission urged a unified authority under the direction of the director of the corps.

At present, the director of the corps has "limited" authority over the CCC's 35,000 employes, all of whom have civilian status and are paid from CCC funds, but are appointed and supervised by other federal departments

That the commission should recognize the value and the need for the appointment of additional supervisors and workers for the Negro groups is one of the faults pointed out sometime ago when it was shown that only a small portion of the Negro camps have all Negro personnel.

as the occasion demands, the new appointments being drawn from the qualifying students in the various schools. The addition of new camps and the retirement of subalterns from other camps make the increases necessary, it is reported.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

CCC Educators To Meet at Hampton

35-g

Hampton, Va., July 21 (AP).—The seventh annual educational conference for Colored Camp Educational Advisers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Third Corps Area, will be held at Hampton Institute July 29-August 1.

JUL 22 1941

CCC educational officers will hold panel and group discussions on orientation, occupational information, personal development courses, and literacy and elementary instruction.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl

Maryland C. C. C. Camp Rehabilitates Negro Youth

Former Oklahoman Makes Good In Federal Youth Program

BELTSVILLE, Md.—"Like charity, vocational guidance begins in the home." This is the theory of Adviser A. F. Williiams, Co. 2317 (A-4).

That it is a good theory is attested by the fact that not one of the many former enrollees placed in civilian jobs by Adviser Williams has been discharged for unsatisfactory work or for any other reason other than a slackening in the employer's business.

A company which has hired a "Williams man" never hesitates to call on Beltsville's one-man employment agency when it is in need of additional help.

The success of these former C's comes as no surprise to Williams, who feels that what these young men need is just the chance to make good. He believes particularly in the importance of the proper home life and family ties, and it is upon this matter of home environment that his unique vocational guidance program hinges.

Adviser Williams' optimistic regard of his charges may sound rather old-fashioned in these days of glorified psychophysics, popular plans to eradicate phobias, IQ's, Dale Carnegie, etc., but Williams says only, "If I'm proven wrong, I might just as well chuck 30 years of experience working with young men down a well, for you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

Studies Home Conditions

Nothing is left to change when a man joins Co. 2317. The adviser works on the premise that to prepare a young man to meet his economic problems the counselor and the counseled must meet half-way. He has found it necessary, however, to win the complete confidence of the average C-man before he can break down those reserves which prevent a common understanding. And in order to win his confidence, Williiams believes, it is necessary for him to get a clear picture of the home life and problems of his charges.

356

As might be expected Williams has found that in a majority of cases the initial trouble is at home. Poverty, lack of cultural opportunities and a generally unattractive home life are most often responsible for the depressed, closed-mind attitude of the rookie C. It is by frequent visits and consultations with the enrollee's parents that he brings about the increased understanding between parent and son which is an essential preliminary to "bringing out the stuff" in a man.

JAN 18 1941

Not only the C-man benefits, for not infrequently the adviser has been able to aid the families he has visited to straighten out financial difficulties, set up an intellgent budget, and shop more cheaply and wisely. In many of the homes he has visited there is now a new spirit which gives the home an attraction for all which never before existed.

Williams numbers among his friends the parents of scores of C-men, many of whom visit the camp two or three times a year, even after their sons have been discharged.

When the adviser has "reached" his man, the actual vocational training begins. Williams seeks to insure his men the very best and most efficient training available. He especially encourages attendance in regular trade school classes, and at this writing 61 members of Co. 2317 are attending classes three nights weekly at Phelps Vocational School in Washington, D. C. They are studying in 11 different classes, ranging from radio operation to shoe repairing. Another group of seven is studying cooking at the Armstrong High School, also in the nation's capital.

Once the C-man is enrolled in a class and beginning to learn a trade, the next important thing is to teach him how to go about getting a job and how to keep it when he has it. Adviser Williams himself conducts this class, and his success is a matter of record. Another important factor is that he knows the employment market, and is a constant close contact with potential employers. He enjoys their confidence because of the excellent record of the men he has sent them in the past.

Some idea of the merits of this program may be gained by the company's placement record within the past two years. Outstanding is the employment of seven C's on a single day in February, 1939, by the Greyhound Transportation Co., in Baltimore. All seven are still employed there, and an eighth man from Co. 2317 has also been hired for the Greyhound depot in Washington, D. C.

Others to be discharged for jobs secured by Williams include six former C's now working in the kitchens of Maryland University, three working for Calvert Distilleries, and several men working in department stores and shops in nearby cities.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Largest, Prettiest CCC Camp In Ohio Is Colored

SEP 20 1941

CADIZ, Ohio—The largest CCC camp in Ohio is a Negro Veteran company located at Cadiz. This is the only Negro Veteran camp in the Fifth Corps area which comprises the states of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. This camp was completed on October 1, 1940, and for the short time it has been in operation, it is considered to be one of the most beautiful and modern camps in the Fifth Corps area.

357

The company commander is a World War veteran and also a former sector commander. The subaltern, camp physician and educational adviser are Negroes. This company has a strength of 236 World War veterans not including 15 members of the technical service who supervise the work projects.

The educational program of this camp is conducted by the camp educational adviser who is a veteran and a graduate of Wilberforce and Ohio State universities. He is the oldest Negro educational adviser in the Fifth Corps area from point of service.

Paris, Tenn., Post-Intelligencer
January 18, 1941

CCC TO ENROLL 1000 IN JAN.

Henry Quota Accomodates All Qualifying, Says Unit Supervisor

35 g

According to an announcement made today by Commissioner Paul Savage the State Department of Public Welfare will hold the last of a series of enrollments for Jenuary for CCC. At this time approximately one thousand white and forty Negro boys will have the opportunity to be selected for CCC enrollment. A large percentage of enrollees will be given the opportunity to serve in camps located on the West Coast in Oregon, California, Washington and Nevada.

Mrs. Rena H. Hampton, Unit Supervisor of the Henry County office of the Department of Public Welfare states that Henry County has been assigned a uota that will allow all of the boys who qualify to be selected. Boys who are interested in applying for selection should report at once to the Henry County office of the Department of Public Welfare located at 112 South Market.

All boys not disqqualified by previous enrollment, are eligible for selection, if they are between the ages of 17 and 23½ years, unemployed, out of school, unmarried,, of good character and physically and mentally sound according to Mrs. Hampton the Unit Supervisor.

Regulations have been changed within the last six months so that a boy no longer has to be in need of relief in order to qualify for enrollment. This change in regulations allows any boy who is unemployed and in need of employment and who otherwise qualifies to be considered for CCC enrollment.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

It's Not All Wood Chopping for CCC Boys; These Sing Over Radio

JAN 18 1941

Thomas P. Hill,
CCC radio announcer

C. Porterfield Harris,
Educational adviser,
CCC Co. 335

FLINTSTONE, Md. — The Green Ridge Glee Club organized out of enrollees in Company 335 of the CCC, located here has recently completed one year of radio broadcasting over Station WTBO in Cumberland, Maryland. This group has been heard over this Station from 2:30 to 3 on Sunday afternoons.

The group's fan mail and requests for songs, show to a great extent how much these programs have been enjoyed.

Enrollee George Anderson is director and Assistant Leader Thomas P. Hill is the radio announcer. Hill always includes readings on thee programs, among them some of his own composition.

The glee club specializes in the singing of Negro spirituals and religious songs. One thing the group has been able to do and that is to hold double engagements the same evening. This has been possible with the glee club having a senior and junior quartette.

JAN 18 194

Aside from the singing of Negro spirituals and religious songs, the group gives minstrels and entertainment programs.

GOOD SPIRIT PREVAILS

There has been a good community spirit that has been developed between the camp and nearby communities—largely through its programs, in the states of Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The glee club has appeeared on programs for the Loins Clubs, schools and churches in this area without regard to denomination or creed.

This group has averaged five engagements per month, during the past year—not inclnding the regular weekly broadcasts.

The glee club is looking forward to even a bigger and a better year in serving the communities over the air and in person.

Jay A. Dasche is the company commander and C. Porterfield Harris is the camp educational adviser.

Milan, Tenn., Exchange
January 23, 1941

CCC Enrollment To Be Enlarged By 1,000

According to an announcement today by Commissioner Paul Savage the State Department of Public Welfare will hold the last of a series of enrollments for January for CCC. At this time approximately one thousand white and forty negro boys will have the opportunity to be selected for CCC enrollment. A large per centage of the enrollees will be given the opportunity to serve in camps located on the West Coast in Oregon, California, Washington and Nevada.

Mrs. J. C. Clark, unit supervisor of the Gibson County office, states that Gibson County has been assigned a quota that will allow all of the boys who qualify to be selected. Boys who are interested in applying for selection should report at once to the Gibson County office of the Department of Public Welfare at Trenton.

All boys, not disqualified by previous enrollment, are eligible for selection, if they are between the ages of 17 and 23½ years, unemployed ,out of school, unmarried, of good

so that a boy no longer has to be in need of relief in order to qualify for enrollment. This change in regulation allows any boy who is unemployed and in need of employment and who otherwise qualifies to be considered for selection for CCC enrollment.

character and physically and mentally sound.

Regulations have been changed within the last six months

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

AUG 30 1941

Silver Dollars Roll As Negro CCC Camp Shows Buying Power

AMERICUS, Aug. 29—Americus saw plenty of silver dollars today.

The local Negro CCC camp paid off in silver dollars, to show Americus how much pay roll money was spent in this city.

AUG 30 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

What New CCC Order Means

CIVILIAN

Each CCC camp has an administrative staff of eight persons, as follows:

1 camp superintendent	$2500
4 foremen	2000 each
2 foremen	1680

MILITARY

Company commander	$2600
1 subaltern	1890
1 doctor	1600
1 chaplain	325

JAN 18 1941

There is usually one doctor to each two camps and one chaplain serves eight camps.

McEntee's order means that colored men will be used as assistant military commanders in all 150 camps and may also qualify for military commanders.

The order makes no change in the civilian staff of superintendent and six foremen. These seven persons in the colored camps are all white.

Lewisburg, Tenn., Tribune
January 24, 1941

~~CCC~~ ENROLLMENT

According to an announcement made today by Commissioner Paul Savage the State Department of Public Welfare will hold the last of a series of enrollments for January for CCC. At this time approximately one thousand white and forty Negro boys will have the opportunity to be selected for CCC enrollment. A large percentage of the enrollees will be given the opportunity to serve in camps located on the West Coast in Oregon, California, Washington and Nevada.

Mrs. Ruth L. Baxter, Unit Supervisor of the Marshall County office of the Department of Public Welfare states that Marshall County has been assigned a quota that will allow all of the boys who qualify to be selected. Boys who are interested in applying for selection should report at once to the Marshall County office of the Department of Public Welfare located at Lewisburg.

All boys, not disqualified by previous enrollment, are eligible for selection, if they are between the ages of 17 and 23½ years, unemployed, out of school, unmarried, of good character and physically and mentally sound according to Mrs. Baxter the Unit Supervisor.

Regulations have been changed within the last six months so that a boy no longer has to be in need of relief in order to qualify for enrollment. This change in regulation allows any boy who is unemployed and in need of employment and who otherwise qualifies to be considered for selection for CCC enrollment.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

To Appoint CCC Major, April 15

APR 12 1941

BALTIMORE

Captain Adolph A. Smith, 42 former employee in the Veterans Administration and at present military advisor to the Civilian Conservation Corps, has been advanced to the rank of major and assigned company commander to serve at Frederick, Md., it was reported this week.

Captain Smith is expected to take over his new duties on or about April 15. His promotion to the rank of major marks the first time a colored reserve officer has been advanced to that rank and given command in the CCC.

Veteran of 16 Years

APR 12 1941

The new major, who until Monday was living at Edgmere near Sparrows Point, Md., where he was doing some experimental work, is now acting as temporary cottage master at the Cheltenham School for Boys, until he takes over his new duties.

He has been an active member of the army reserve corps for the past sixteen years and was formerly instructor to the 369th Infantry Regiment.

Contacted by the AFRO on Thursday, Captain Smith said that he had finished a course last October which would advance him to the rank of major and added that he expected further word from the War Department next week.

APR 12 1941

Records at Third Corps Area headquarters here carried no notice of Captain Smith's appointment and efforts to verify it in Washington proved futile because CCC headquarters are in the midst of being moved into new quarters and files on appointments are inaccessible.

Is Ph.D.

Captain Smith is a native of Aiken, South Carolina, a graduate of New York University, where he received his B.S. in education; graduate of the CMTC Blue Course, the College of Pharmacy of New York City where he received his Ph.D. and LLD.

He also is a graduate of the Infantry School at Fort Bennings, Ga. (1926), and the General Staff and Command Line, Governor's Island, N.Y. (1933), where he specialized in chemical warfare service.

APR 12 1941

He is married and has three children, Arthur, who is enrolled in a New York preparatory school, and Aubrey and Adrien students in a Maryland College.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 24, 1941

CCC WORKS TIED IN WITH DEFENSE

State Enrollees Learn Jobs Of Practical Value To Industry

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 23—(AP)—Approximately 5,000 young men and war veterans in Alabama CCC camps May 1 were receiving training related directly or indirectly to national defense, the State Welfare Department said Monday.

All junior enrollees, the department statement pointed out, are trained in jobs such as truck driving, tractor operation, surveying, drafting and other subjects, fitting them for duty whether they are called under the selective service act or obtain jobs in defense industries.

A report by James E. McEntee, CCC director, showed that of the 5,000 men enrolled in 29 camps in April, 1,346 were taking special national defense vocational training courses either in camps or at nearby trade schools, in cooperation with state vocational education authorities.

Another 88 men were taking full-time vocational courses at two CCC cooks' and bakers' schools and a central motor repair shop.

"All enrollees in the Alabama camps are receiving training of marked value in national defense," the report said. "Those taking the vocational courses also receive training while working on the regular CCC projects.

Muscles Developed

"All of them likewise take a required first-aid program and junior enrollees take daily setting up exercises to improve their posture and to strengthen muscles that are not developed in the course of ordinary work.

"They have all learned something about living in military camp surroundings, such as first-aid, safety, sanitation, personal hygiene, discipline, regular hours, and daily contact with men of widely varied temperments.

"The specific object of the CCC training plan is to build strong, healthy bodies, to train men to work, live and play together, to teach good work habits, to help enrollees to discover their particular occupational talents and to teach young men to become responsible citizens.

"Many of the vocational courses now expanded as part of the national defense training program have been given for years in the CCC, either on the work projects or in after-work classes. This training continues to be carried on."

Practical Work Taught

Two cooks' and and bakers' schools are operated in Alabama, each with an enrollment of 34 men selected from camps in the area. The school for white enrollees is at Camp TVA13, Wilson Dam, and the school for Negroes at Camp F-10, Munford. Courses run for eight weeks and cover practical cooking work, mess management, menu planning, food purchasing and bookkeeping necessary for mess stewardship.

The CCC central motor repair shop at Talladega has 20 enrollees assigned. They work with skilled mechanics, receiving practical experience in all types of automotive maintenance and repair. This includes automotive assembly and dis-assembly, motor repair, ignition, fuel systems, body and chasis repair, use and care of tools, operation of lathes and drills, battery work and storeroom operation.

Enrollees in 23 of the 29 Alabama camps are studying national defense vocational subjects in 90 individual classes. The subjects are auto mechanics, metal work, electricity and woodworking.

35g-1941

C. C. C.

McMinnville, Tenn. Standard
January 24, 1941

STATE QUOTA FOR CCC IS OVER A THOUSAND

According to an announcement made this week by Commissioner Paul Savage, the State Department of Public Welfare will hold the last of a series of CCC enrollments for January. At this time, approximately one thousand white and forty Negro boys will have the opportunity to be selected for CCC enrollment. A large percentage of the enrollees will be sent to camps located on the West coast in Oregon, California, Washington and Nevada.

Miss Elizabeth Clark, unit supervisor of the Warren county office of the Department of Public Welfare, states that Warren county has been assigned a quota that will allow all of the boys who qualify to be selected. Boys who are interested in applying for selection should report at once to the Warren county office of the Department of Public Welfare, located at the Whitson building.

All boys, not disqualified by previous enrollment, are eligible for selection, if they are between the ages of 17 and 23 1-2 years, unemployed, out of school, unmarried, of good character and physically and mentally sound, according to Miss Clark.

Regulations have been changed within the last six months so that a boy no longer has to be in need of relief in order to qualify for enrollment. This change in regulation allows any boy who is unemployed and in need of employment and who otherwise qualifies, to be considered for selection for CCC enrollment.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
February 27, 1941

VOCATIONAL TEACHERS AT COLORED CCC CAMP

Four colored vocational instructors have begun work at the colored CCC camp, near Booker T. Washington park, in the national defense set-up for training boys.

O. L. Goode, manual training instructor at Orchard Knob Junior High school, is handling the same work at the camp. L. George Chester, of the colored vocational school, 1220 Pine street, has classes in electrical work; Anderson Bogus, in charge of the work in blacksmith and metal work, and Alex Carney holds classes in auto mechanics.

Wintergreen Billingslea has a training class at Washington High school, open to students and adults of the county. This also is a part of the defense program.

Knoxville, Tenn. News Sentinel
February 1, 1941

134 ARE SELECTED FOR CCC CAMPS

Approximately 134 youths of East Tennessee were selected today for enrollment in Civilian Conservation Corps camps in or near Tennessee.

Today's enrollment resulted from a new allotment given this section after other areas failed to meet their quotas.

On January 7, 159 white youths and 14 Negroes were enrolled, and again 315 were accepted on Jan. 20 here. This section provides by far the greatest number of CCC enrollees in the state.

Applications are received at the County Welfare Office, 416 West Cumberland Avenue.

Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
May 29, 1941

County Given Supplemented CCC Quota

A supplemental quota of ten Montgomery County Negro youths for enrollment in Civilian Conservation Corps camps, was announced today by A. K. Thompson, state director of CCC service certification and Mrs. James Major, local public welfare unit director, said the youths would be selected today and would leave for camps Saturday.

Nine white youths and two Negroes were accepted into the CCC Tuesday in a special enrollment, Mrs. Majors announced. They passed physical examinations in Nashville and were dispatched to camps. The white enrollees were James M. Bobbit, Southside, Pleas W. Black, Cunningham; James Biggs, Southsile; William E. Cole, Clarksville; Norman E. Forsythe, Southside; Lewis W. Quinton, Clarksville; Austin W. Rowland; George C. Williams and James E. Vaughan, all of Cumberland City, Route 2.

The two colored youths selected Tuesday were Bernice W. Minor, Clarksvile, and Buck Bell, Jr., of Southside.

Montgomery County's long waiting list of eligible Negro youths for Tuesday's enrollment when only three Negroes were allotted in the local quota, prompted the supplemental quota, Mrs. Majors explained. One of yesterday's three applicants failed to pass the physical examination.

Anniston, Ala. Star
May 28, 1941

FIRE RESTARTS

A forest fire which was extinguished late Tuesday afternoon just north of Jacksonville was reported to have started again on the other side of the mountain chain running through that section. Negro C. C. C. boys from Piedmont had controlled and extinguished the flames yesterday after being called into service during the morning.

At the same time, Sheriff W. L. Borders today promised full cooperation with forestry officials in the prosecution of any persons guilty of starting a forest fire. The penalty for starting a forest fire, it was explained to The Star, is not more than $1,000 fine and/or a year in prison. The law sets out that when farmers are burning over their fields, they must advise their neighbors and set guards about the fields to see that it does not spread.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 20, 1941

THE FIRST DROWNING

The first fatality of the season on Chickamauga Lake occurred on Sunday when a Negro youth enrolled in a CCC camp near Highway 58 drowned while swimming with two other young Negroes. That tragic accident emphasizes anew the safety problem which will become increasingly complex as the season attracts more and more persons to the lake. On so large a body of water it is impossible for the Coast Guard and other public agencies to police every area used by the public. Care by individuals and due regard for hazards which are not apparent to the uninformed need constantly to be stressed.

Facilities for swimming have been provided at Harrison Bay State Park. It is idle to suppose that persons will limit their recreation on the lake to the protected areas, yet the various fishing clubs and other organizations can contribute to the safety program by cautioning their own members and the public generally against taking chances.

In almost every instance last year, fatalities on the lake resulted from what in industry would be called man-failure. The hazards on the water are not numerous. Protected areas have been provided with facilities for the accommodation of large numbers of persons, and the TVA and the Coast Guard are alert in their patrols of sections where there is likely to be congestion. The larger measure of responsibility for making Chattanooga's recreation area safe rests upon the individua

---

Nashville, Tenn., Tennessean
May 29, 1941

New CCC Quota Given For Montgomery

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., May 28—(Spl)—A supplemental quota of 10 Montgomery Negro youths for enrollment in the CCC was announced today by A. K. Thompson, state director of CCC service certification.

Mrs. James Major, local welfare unit director, said youths would be selected today and tomorrow and would leave for camp Saturday.

Nine white youths and two Negroes were accepted into the CCC Tuesday in a special enrollment.

The white enrollees were James M. Bobbitt, Southside; Pleas W. Black, Cunningham; James Biggs, Southside; William E. Cole, Clarksville; Norman E. Forsythe, Southside; Lewis W. Quinton, Clarksville; Austin W. Rowalnd, George C. Williams and James E. Vaughn, all of Cumberland City. The two Negro youths were Bernice W. Minor, Clarksville, and Buck Bell, Jr., Southside.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 27, 1941

CCC To Enroll 3,200 Georgia Youth July 18

2,600 White Men, 600 Negroes To Lift Total to 11,000.

Georgia will enroll 2,600 white men and 620 Negroes into the Civilian Conservation Corps July 18, Charles A. Coffin, state supervisor of the CCC Selection Service, announced yesterday.

This will bring Georgia's total enrollment to more than 11,000, Coffin said. The total at present is approximately 8,500.

Georgia's quota is larger than that for many other states because employment conditions in some sections present such a demand for labor that there are relatively few recruits for the CCC.

Coffin pointed out that the CCC program is aiding materially in national defense preparations, since the Army in most cases finds CCC boys more physically fit for military service.

These boys, he said, have the fundamental training in discipline and camp life that is so essential to a good Army, adding that they can advance much faster in the service than raw recruits.

Qualifications include age limits of 17 to 23 1-2 years. Applicants must be unmarried boys out of employment and physically fit. The pay is $30 per month. Of this the enrollee may spend $8 save $7 and send $15 home, or if his family does not need the money he may deposit $22 with the government until his enrollment is completed. Food, clothing, medical care and recreation facilities are furnished by the government.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

339

HUMAN INTEREST

EARLY THIS MONTH there came to our desk a photograph of a group of Negro youths, enrollees in the C. C. C., sitting on a staircase enjoying watermelon. Ordinarily such a photograph would immediately make our trash basket. Not so with this photograph which happened to have been taken by the Army Signal Corps in this area. We kept the photograph and immediately sat down and wrote a letter to the Army Information Service at 90 Church Street. Addressed to Col. Frank J. Pearson, the letter follows:

"On Saturday morning we received from your office two photographs of Negro youths, enrollees in the C. C. C., and were surprised to see that one of the pictures (No. 2172 was of a group of Negro boys who were forced to suffer the indignity of having to pose eating watermelon.

"This protest is not so much against their eating watermelon, I enjoy eating it myself, but apparently there is someone in the Army Signal Corps under the impression that eating watermelon is something typical of Negroes. I am sure that a group of Jewish youths would not be posed eating gefulte fish or Irish youth corn beef and cabbage or Italians spaghetti. Editors of their papers would be justly indignant at receiving such photographs and yet those dishes are supposedly—but wrongly—typically racial, too.

"In the future, I would appreciate it, if photos of Negroes be given the same treatment as photos of whites. Because there is a difference in the pigmentation of the skin, there is no difference in feelings and Negroes should be accorded the same treatment as whites and not made the butt of someone's misguided attempt to be funny.

'Thanking you for your attention to this request,

"Yours very truly,
Fred R. Moore, Editor

Because we wanted to make certain that this would not be repeated, we sent copies of this letter to the President of the United States and to Judge William Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War.

Our letter to the President drew the following reply from the Adjutant General:

"I am directed by the Secretary of War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of recent date, addressed to the President, which has been referred to the War Department for reply.

"Your suggestions have been noted in the Department and the correspondence has been made of record for such consideration as circumstances may warrant.

"Your interest in National Defense is appreciated."

We didn't expect anything more than such a form letter from the War Department but we did expect something more from Judge Hastie's office because Judge Hastie, being a Negro, is supposed to be OUR representative and look out for OUR interest. His assistant, Truman K. Gibson jr., sent us the following letter:

"In Judge Hastie's absence from the city, I am answering your letter of July 7. This office is in hearty sympathy with the position which you have taken in the matter of pictures and has called your expressions to the attention of the War Department."

How those expressions were called to the attention of the War Department we do not know.

The most surprising acknowledgement of our complaint came by return mail from Colonel Pearson who wrote:

"I have received your interesting letter regarding the photographs of the Negro enrollees in the C. C. C. and I regret sincerely your reaction to the particular picture you mention.

"I have investigated this case and find that the Major on duty at the C. C. C. headquarters was one who purchased the melon for the boys, and I do not believe they were forced to pose or felt they were undergoing any indignity by having their picture taken while eating the melon.

"My home happens to be in Atlanta, Georgia. I have always associated the Sunny South with the colored boy eating watermelon, just as the general impression is—as you state—that all Italians like and eat spaghetti; or the Germans, pretzels and beer, or the English, beefsteak, etc.

"I can assure you there was no intent on the part of the officer who gave the boys the melon for the photograph to ridicule Negro race in any way. After the photographs were developed we thought this would be a good human interest picture showing a group of bright youngsters having a good time. If our conception of this situation was incorrect. I sincerely apologize.

"I am giving instructions that in the future every effort must be made to picture both the Negroes and the Whites under the same conditions, as near as possible. There was certainly no intention on our part to be 'funny.' This picture was presented merely from the viewpoint of its 'human interest.'

"Regretting this misunderstanding and hoping that our records in the future will meet with your approval, I am,

"Yours very truly,
"F. J. Pearson,
"Lieut. Col, GSC, Officer In Charge.'

The thought strikes us that if Col. Pearson a native of Atlanta, can apologize for an error in judgment and issue instructions that in the future every precaution be taken not to offend us, why could not Judge Hastie's office have taken a strong stand? Or is that the penalty of being an adviser?

AUG 2 1941

35g-1941

CONNECTICUT

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NORTHERN TOBACCO GROWERS WANT 1000 SOUTHERN WORKERS

5g- Conn.

APR 1 2 1941

35g

HARTFORD, Conn., April 10—It was learned here Saturday that the Federal Farm Security Administration plans to import about one thousand young Southern race field hands to work on the Connecticut Valley tobacco plantations for the coming season. Due to defense work in nearby factories an acute labor shortage has developed.

Stanley Kendig, of the Connecticut Council of Churches, in charge of recreation work among migrant workers in Connecticut tobacco fields, quoted tobacco growers as being in favor of the plan to import labor from Southern fields.

SIMILAR PLAN DURING WORLD WAR

APR 1 2 1941

Each year the larger tobacco growers of Connecticut Valley have recruited a few young race college students for employment in local fields, providing for their transportation and board, and also for transportation to their homes after the crop is harvested. Mr. Kendig stated that this year the number of workers imported, through the Farm Security Board, will total about one thousand. During the first World War, a similar plan was adopted. However, it did not work out too well in some cases; largely due to lack of supervision.

The Farm Security Administration suggested to the growers that they recruit the young race workers from the South, particularly from sections where there is little or no work. The Federal agency is described as being willing to do the recruiting of the workers itself, and supervising their transportation here and return after the season is over.

35g-1941

DELAWARE

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Jobs Open in Wilmington for Colored Machinists

JAN 4 - 1941

PHILADELPHIA

Machinists, both skilled and semi-skilled, are needed by the Zallea Brothers and Johnson Company of Wilmington, Del., who announced this week that machinists' jobs are available for a number of colored workers.

With defense contracts growing larger each day, unemployed colored workers are urged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Those interested are urged to apply directly to the firm at Taylor and Locust Streets in Wilmington, or to a State employment office. The Philadelphia office is at 253 N. Broad, where Postelle Vaughn will receive applicants.

35 Del.

35g-1941

D.C.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Census Bureau Girls Contract Disease Caused by Heavy Work

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 27.—Myositis, an occupational disease carrying with it the danger of permanent disaffection, one of the evils prevalent among workers in the machine tabulation division of the United States Census Bureau, is the subject of an investigation undertaken by the Washington National Negro Congress in conjunction with Local 23 of the United Federal Workers of America, CIO.

The NNC revealed here yesterday that 20 Negro and white girls employed as card punchers in this division of census work had been stricken with this disease and face the prospect of never again being able to earn a living at the same type of work.

Physicians have identified occupational Myositis as an inflammatory condition of the muscle fibres caused by undue strain. In severe cases it results in the development of a ganglion or swelling on the tendon or nerve fibre, necessitating an operation to obtain relief.

REPORT SCORES HIT

Since last January, the Negro Congress report indicated, scores of young women workers found suffering from this occupational disease have been forced to stop working. In the majority of cases, after treatment by United States Public Health Service physicians, the victims have been informed that although they are eligible for other kind of work, they must give up card punching.

These girls have neither been assigned to other jobs, nor been accorded compensation during their period of illness.

The Jim-Crow policy operating in the Census Bureau, the Negro Congress revealed, has kept 95 per cent of the employed Negroes on card-punching machines, which is considered the most difficult work in the Bureau.

JIM-CROW POLICY

While some 50 per cent of the white workers released from work in this department in the past have been offered jobs in other branches of the Bureau, NOT ONE OF THE MORE THAN 200 NEGRO WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN LET OUT DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS, HAS RECEIVED AN OFFER OF ANOTHER JOB.

The National Negro Congress and Local 23 have been conducting a campaign since last February to remedy the Jim-Crow situation in the Census Bureau, which even excludes Negro workers from using the cafeteria with white workers.

The report released by the NNC and Local 23 graphically described the speed-up plan in effect in this department of the Census Bureau:

"For seven hours each day, the girls transfer information from the 1940 Census schedules to cards which are later tabulated by machine. The card-punch machine has a 10-key board, operated by three fingers of the right hand. Great pressure is required to operate these particular machines, which are the oldest existent machines of the mechanical type. (It has been estimated that it requires 10 to 12 pounds of pressure to move one key on these machines, which become obsolete by the introduction of the electric machine.)

GET SUB-STANDARD PAY

"The card punch operators in the Census Bureau are the only group of government workers paid on a piece-work scale, and until recently even the base pay was 50 cents a day less than standard pay for this work. With partial completion of the 1940 census, the card-punch division is reducing its force, dismissing those employes who are punching fewest cards.

"Thus the girls are forced to compete with each other for job tenure and a new speed-up, over and above that created by the piece-work method of payment and the stepped-up quotas.

"Do this work under these conditions for one 7-hour day and your arm will ache. It will be better by the next morning. But do such work for weeks and months and continuous pain will most likely result. You will have contracted the 'new silicosis' of the government service—occupational myositis.

"... Ventilation in the huge card-punch offices, originally designed as a warehouse, used to be so bad that fainting and heat exhaustion were pervalent in the hot summer months. Successful union protest resulted in the installation of fans."

UNION PROGRAM

The report outlined the 5-point program of the union, which would eliminate the disease hazard to these workers: (1) Compensation payments must be speeded up; (2) the Bureau has the moral obligation to provide lighter work for injured girls who are able to do such work until they are well enough to return to punching; (3) the Bureau must not force injured girls to compete for their jobs and efficiency ratings at the machines; (4) official leave to be granted short-term absence due to injury, when these absences are not of sufficient duration to qualify the employes for compensation and when they exhaust the accrued sick leave. No vacation "docking" for convalescing from injuries incurred on the job; (5) those girls who have suffered permanent limitation of their work capacity should be provided with a permanent appointment to work they can perform.

MAY 28 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

U.S. Restaurant Lose Money But Race Must Pay

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 29—Although colored citizens are denied service in the Senate and House restaurants, as Federal taxpayers they will have to share a deficit of $65,000 in the operation of these two Capitol restaurants.

Colored persons are barred from service in the House restaurant under the subterfuge that it is operated solely for members of the House and their employees. As a matter of fact, a part of the House restaurant is set off for the general public and anybody may be served in it except colored persons.

The rule denying service to colored persons was put into effect when former Representative Lindsay C. Warren, of North Carolina, who is now the Comptroller General of the United States, was chairman of the House [illegible] Committee and had control of the House restaurant.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

A NEGRO ON THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

FOLLOWING A CONFERENCE between President Roosevelt and a committee headed by Edgar Brown, head of the United Government Employees, it was announced in Washington last week that a Negro would be appointed to an executive capacity on the Federal Civil Service Commission. The recently passed Ramspeck Civil Service Bill forbids discrimination in appointments to civil service jobs because of race.

It is expected that the new appointee will report and investigate cases of alleged discrimination, and in this way it is hoped that the un-democratic practice will be broken up.

For a long time The Age has urged that the best way to break up the biased attitude of the Civil Service Commission and other federal agencies was through the appointment of capable Negroes to these boards and agencies, and the newly inaugurated policy of the President in respect to these civilian agencies is a step in the right direction. We only hope that it will be extended to the War and Navy Departments.

JUN 7 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

FSA WORKERS 'SMELL RAT' IN RAMSPECK BILL

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Negro employes of the Federal Security administration of the department of agriculture received their greatest shock on Monday when they learned that the famed Ramspeck bill, which was to blanket in thousands of government employes not under the civil service into the protection of that agency, had been amended to Congress two hours before the deadline, to exclude the 18,000 employes of that division.

No one seems to know why this was done nor how it was brought about, when it had been anticipated all along that FSA, which has been most liberal in hiring Negroes, would be one of the many agencies included in the protective measure.

In anticipation of the contemplated blanketing in of FSA under the Ramspeck bill, only recently a score or more promotions in the department were announced by one of the administrative officials. And further, there was a general rush to fill fall vacancies in the department prior to June 30 when the bill became effective as of July 1.

JUL 12 1941

35g-1941
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

D.C.

Georgia Solon Assails Effort To Break Race Barriers

WASHINGTON, June 12—The so-called Carpenter plan for the reorganization of the District of Columbia Employment Center stirred up a heated controversy over the question of the abolition of racial segregation during hearings before a House appropriations subcommittee on appropriations for the Federal Security Agency.

The plan recommended by Martin Carpenter, chief of the United States Employment Service. proposes the elimination of segregation of activities and personnel on account of age, sex, race, or occupation of applicants.

Asked by Representative Malcolm C. Tarver of Georgia, the chairman of the sub-committee, whether he intended going as far as he felt justified at the present time toward bringing about a closer association both of colored and white employees in the office and of colored and white applicants for placement, Ewan Clague, director of the Bureau of Employment Security, replied, "Yes".

NOT HELPING RACE

"You are not helpnig the colored race by doing it," the Georgia replied. "You are merely catering to the views of a few colored people, most of them people who are making money out of the colored race by carrying on their agitational activities and getting paid from the Negroes who think they are doing them some service.

"You are merely catering to their views by taking a step toward what they regard as racial equality. You are not doing any benefit to your service or the unemployed, either to the white or colored race."

Representative Frank B. Keefe, Republican of Wisconsin, goaded Judge Tarver by saying that in view of some contemporary history "perhaps the inspiration does not necessarily come from a few disgruntled colored people, but if I am to observe what has been going on recently there has been quite a decided movement toward recognition of equality of the colored race which emanates from rather high places in your party's councils."

WANT BARRIERS TO REMAIN

After stating that he was afraid there was entirely too much justification for what Mr. Keefe said, Judge Tarver added that he wished the record to show that he did not belong to any sagment of any party "which is in accord with this very unusual and unnecessary and ill-advised procedure.

"And I think that those wherever they may be, in high station or middle station or in low station, who are engaged today in an effort to break down racial barriers, natural barriers which God Almight set up, are engaged in a disservice to the civilization of which they are a part."

JUN 14 1941

D.C.
35 9

35g-1941

D.C.

Washington **Tribune**
Washington, D. C.

SEEK TO PLACE NEGRO CLERKS IN SANITARY STORE

FEB 1 1941

An effort to get colored clerks in the new Sanitary Store to be opened soon at Fourteenth and U Streets, Northwest, is being made, it was announced this week by Eugene Davidson, New Negro Alliance Administrator.

A committee comprised of Mr. Davidson, Rolandus H. Cooper, assistant administrator, and Thurman L. Dotson, of the Alliance legal committee, talked with the Sanitary personnel director, B. A. Leatherman, Mr. Davidson said, but could get no promises or assurance that any action toward the demands of the Alliance would be taken by the company.

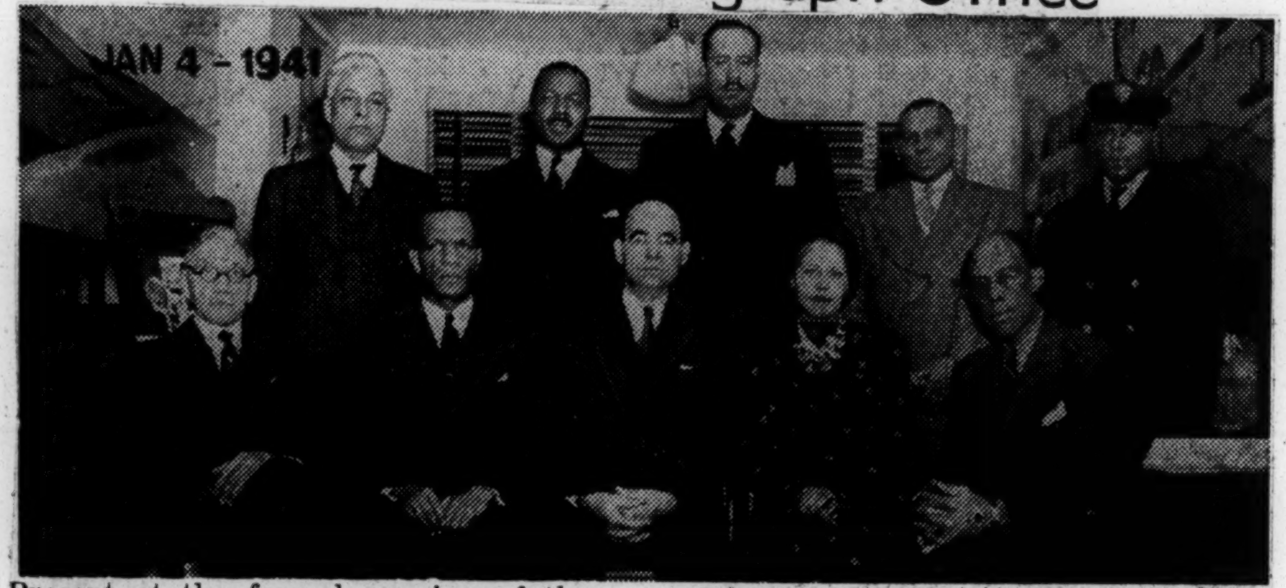
The personnel director said, however, according to Mr. Davidson, that the company would do whatever the patronage wanted.

This week, the administrator indicated, the Alliance decided as a course of immediate action to circulate petitions demanding colored clerks in the new store.

The petition committee, it was said, will be handled by George H. Rycraw and Leslie S. Perry, of the executive committee of the Alliance.

Pittsburgh **Courier**
Pittsburgh, Pa.

No Whites Needed to Run Washington's New Postal Telegraph Office



JAN 4 - 1941

Present at the formal opening of the Postal Telegraph office at 1011 U Street, Northwest, were the persons pictured above. They are, left to right (seated): Charles Hall, Hosea Lindsey, general manager of the office; Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard University; Mrs. Geneva K. Valentine, Shep Allen; standing: Jesse W. Mitchell, George W. Goodman, Dr. William Nash, Emmer Lancaster, and Chester Plummer, delivery manager.

JAN 4 - 1941

Formal opening of the U Street branch of the Postal Telegraph Company, in Washington, which is manned entirely by colored persons, took place Thursday evening with President Mordecai W. Johnson of Howard University topping the ceremonies. He is shown shaking hands with Hosea Lindsey (right) manager of the office.

Washington **Tribune**
Washington, D. C.

Colored Unit Aids U. S. Job Seekers

MAR 24 1941

359

The Outer Guard, a group of Negro stenographers and secretaries employed by the Government, is arranging a list of competent Negro stenographers who are available for employment.

The group says it sometimes has opportunity to recommend good stenographers for jobs. The registration will be held tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday at the Twelfth Street Y. M. C. A. from 7 p. m. to 9:30 p. m Dictation will be given at 8 p. m. in speeds of 80, 96 and 110 words a minute. The group emphasized in its announcement that it makes no pretense of guaranteeing jobs, but "only promises active interest in the persons selected for its lists." There are no fees.

MAR 24 1941

Chicago **Bee**
Chicago, Illinois

Federal Jobs

APR 20 1941

COLORED stenographers and secretaries in the nation's capital have organized a society for the purpose of encouraging and aiding other members of their race to secure federal employment. This is a commendable program. It is one that can be followed by a good many other organizations that are not necessarily made up of federal employees.

There are more federal positions now than there ever were. The salaries are attractive. Thousands of Negroes are qualified to take the examinations. Many do not know about the many opportunities offered or when examinations are held. An organization which would take upon itself the duty of announcing the dates of examinations to interested persons would be doing the race a favor. There are hundreds of different jobs in the federal service which the average person has never heard of. Furthermore, the public in general does not know how to secure such positions. Some are secured by examinations, some by appointments and others by other methods.

APR 20 1941

Organizations in Chicago interested in securing positions in the government service for their members might seriously consider the wisdom of making thorough investigations of the jobs available and acquainting their members with their findings.

Postal Telegraph
THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
HERE

JAN 4 - 1941

The Washington AFRO-AMERICAN scored a beat on the rest of the world, Thursday, when it became the first to file a message through the newly-opened Postal Telegraph office. The office opened for business at 10 a.m., and an AFRO telegram to the Baltimore office of the company congratulated the Postal firm for its enterprise. Pictured standing are: Miss Betty Wallace, clerk; Sam Lacy of the AFRO, handing the message to the operator, and Hosea Lindsey, general manager of the office.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Washington Is Best City for Jobs

Figures showing the number of WPA workers on February (1939) payrolls who were certified for continued employment have just been published and there is one important thing about it: MAR 22 1941

Sixty-six per cent of all the workers in Washington certified for continued WPA employment were colored. The actual number was 7,000 colored and 3,600 white. No other State had such a large proportion of colored WPA workers.

South Carolina, where the proportion of colored and white people in the population is about equal, has only 39 per cent of WPA workers who are colored.

Georgia has 36 per cent, Mississippi 22 per cent, Maryland and Virginia 28 per cent, Massachusetts 1 per cent, New Jersey and New York 14 per cent, and Pennsylvania 9 per cent.

MAR 22 1941

It is evident that it pays to live close to Washington if you want a job.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Mehlinger, Federal Attorney, Wins Case for Government

MAY 24 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A contract case involving $62,742 was tice Department attorney, in the won by Louis R. Mehlinger, Jus- United States Court of Claims last week.

The suit was brought by the Continental Construction Company, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, which had a contract with the Government for the construction of an extension to the heating plant and the installation of a new steam distribution system at Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

WORK STOPPED

The construction company began the work but did not complete the project. The work should have been finished by June 2, 1934, but the company continued its activities until July 21, 1934, when it withdrew its force and all work stopped.

After it left the site of the project, the Government terminated its right to proceed with the work and called upon its surety, the Fireman's Fund Indemnity Company, to complete the job.

The contracting company claimed that the Government cancelled the contract and brought suit for damages in the sum of $62,742.05. The Court of Claims held that it was not entitled to recover on any of the several items asserted in its suit and dismissed its petition.

35g-1941

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Failure To Name Negro On New Labor Board Draws Fire

MAR 29 1941

NEW YORK CITY—Failure of President Roosevelt to include a Negro as a member of the mediation board of eleven persons occasioned "keen disappointment" to the N. A. A. C. P., according to a letter from Walter White, NAACP secretary, to Mr. Roosevelt.

The NAACP letter also scored the naming by the president of George M. Harrison, grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, because Harrison's union "bars persons from membership on account of race, creed and color."

Harrison, who has been mentioned for several federal posts, has been criticized severely for the anti-Negro attitude of his union. The text of the NAACP letter follows:

"It is with keen disappointment that we note you not only failed to include a qualified Negro as a member of the mediation board of eleven appointed by you but that you appointed a man who heads a labor union whose constitution bars persons from membership on account of race, creed and color. We refer to George M. Harrison, grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks.

MAR 29 1941

"Thirteen million Negroes and their friends view this with dismay. They wonder what hope there is for the Negro in the industrial phases of the national defense program, for which the Negro is taxed along with his white fellow citizens, when you as president select as a member of the mediation board a man who heads a union which draws lines of color and creed. One wonders if there is any hope of industrial democracy and justice for the Negro and other minorities in such an arrangement."

Seek $4 Daily For Red Caps In D.C.

APR 5 - 1941

Savannah Journal

Savannah, Ga.

WASHINGTON —(SNS)— The request of redcaps in the Washington Terminal [illegible] for a daily wage of $4 has been endorsed by the District of Columbia branch of the NAACP. The company has offered to increase the wages of the men from $2.00 to $2.88 per day.

APR 5 - 1941

Last year a plan was instituted whereby the public was charged 10 cents a parcel for redcap service and a few months after the system started reports were current that the Terminal company here was making a profit of $4,000 a month on redcap service alone.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

5 Girls 'Outsit' War Dept. Bias And Get U.S. Jobs

APR 19 1941

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Five colored girls who waited and watched finally won out in their "sit-down" battle with the bumptious officials of the war department when they were ordered to work and assigned to offices last week after spending a varied length of time sitting in the offices doing nothing.

The five, Mrs. Mildred Vernon, Miss Muriel Lewis, Miss Dorothy Marks, Miss Viola B. Murphy and Mrs. Jessie G. Miller, had been called in by the civil service commission as a result of passing examinations and then assigned to the war department.

APR 19 1941

Since January 28, Mrs. Vernon has been sitting in one of the offices waiting an appointment. The others have sat from lesser periods, and had found their position irksome until the powers that be devised a unit for them. They have been assigned to the civilian administration division as stenographers and typists.

D.C.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Members Of Federal Council Of Negro Government Advisers Listed

MAY 4 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—According to the listing of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, the following comprise the membership of the Federal Council of Negro Advisers:

Emmer Martin Lancaster, Joseph Houchins of the department of commerce; Judge William Hastie Truman Gibson, war department; Constance E. H. Daniel, Jerome Robinson and Giles Hubert, department of agriculture; William H. Houston, Louis Mehlinger, Louis Lautier of the department of justice; Dr. William J. Thompkins, recorder of deeds; Ralph E. Mizell, post office department;

MAY 4 1941

Cornelius King, Farm Credit administration; Major Campbell C. Johnson, selective service; Robert C. Weaver, Frances H. Williams; Robert R. Taylor, Theodore R. Poston, defense; William Trent, public works; Frank S. Horne, Charles Johnson, Henry Lee Moon, Edward Lovett, Charles S. Duke, of the housing authority; Alfred E. Smith, Dutton R Ferguson, WPA: Howard D. Woodson, treasury department; Lawrence Oxley, Dr. Charles E. Franklin, Ira DeA Reid and Roy Ellis, Social Security board: Dr. Ambrose Caliver, department of education; Joseph H. B. Evans, T. Arnold Hill, Pauline Redmond, Ora B. Stokes, Nel Hunter and Feginald Johnson, NYLA. Benita Lewis of the childern's bureau and Edgar G. Brown of the CCC.

Mrs. Bethune said the group met once a month to discuss ways and means of profitably representing the cause of the 13.000.000 Negroes in the United States

---

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

3000 Negro Workers Listed In Washington Building Trades Union

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Not all workers in the district are government, since some 3,000 Negroes are listed as being in the building trades, according to George Goodman of the local Urban League. These men are not engaged in the large construction jobs in and around Washington, but are largely used on "speculative jobs" that is in the building of small houses and homes of which there is a bountiful supply for whites going on in the district.

MAY 10 1941

Unions, prejudiced to Negroes, keep them out of the large jobs and soon, says Mr. Goodman, these same unions will be turning their eyes to the small speculative jobs in the hope of getting this work for their own members. Urging these Negroes to organize themselves Mr. Goodman points out the necessity for this as an aid to furthering their own cause and insists that there be some local established in the district with Negroes as members.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

10 Million Still Jobless Despite War Orders, CIO Says; Unemployment as High as Year Ago

APR 10 1941

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 9.—Despite administration propaganda to the effect that the armaments boom is creating millions of new jobs, there are still about 10,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States.

An estimate which has just been made public by the CIO in its monthly periodical, the Economic Outlook, placed unemployment in January at 10,116,000.

This represented an increase of 1,119,000 or 12.5 per cent over the CIO estimate of 8,997,000 unemployed in December.

Unemployment in January, 1941, was just as great as in July, 1940, when the huge Roosevelt arms program was first getting started, the Economic Outlook pointed out. The CIO estimate of unemployment in July was 10,097,000.

The CIO publication said that part of the rise in unemployment during January was due to seasonal factors, but made it plain that this was by no means the most important element in the picture.

Comparing figures for January, 1941 and January, 1940, the Economic Outlook said that unemployment during this entire period, which was marked by intensive arms production declined by less than 2,000,000.

Total employment in January, 1941 was 45,134,000 as compared with 42,723,000 in January, 1940, the Economic Outlook said.

While there were 2,411,000 more jobs in the first month of 1941 than in January, 1940, the CIO publication declared that unemployment dropped only 1,811,000 due to the addition of new workers to the labor force.

Pointing to a number of factors which are slowing up even the meager and relatively insignificant re-employment which has taken place so far, the Outlook came to the conclusion that most estimates of "greately increased employment are excessive."

Official figures put out this week by Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt also made it plain that there has been little alleviation of the severe unemployment problem.

McNutt admitted that there were 5,001,000 men and women registered with state employment offices in February as active job seekers and that there was no decline in the number of active job seekers from January when unemployment usually reaches a seasonal peak.

The Federal Security Administrator boasted that the "daily rate of placements" by the state employment offices in February was 8 per cent higher in February than in January.

But he neglected to point out that the total of 345,000 filled by state employment offices in February was lower than the 363,000 total in January.

Another sign of the unemployment reluctantly admitted by McNutt was that the same number of workers receiving unemployment compensation each week in February remained at a high point of 806,000. The number in January was only slightly higher with 826,000.

Particularly significant was an admission by McNutt that slight drops in unemployment compensation payments took place primarily in the East where big armaments contracts are concentrated. Only six states west of the Mississippi showed a drop in payments during February, while a number of states showed an increase.

WPA CUTS

Despite the lack of any appreciable drop in unemployment, the administration is proceeding with a program of drastic cuts in WPA enrollment.

WPA officials state that they will pare the rolls down to 1,300,000 by July 1 as compared to a high of about 1,900,000 in January. There are now about 1,700,000 WPA workers on the rolls.

The total number of WPA workers who will be fired between January and July will thus come to 600,000.

In July when the 1942 fiscal year starts, the administration will begin a new series of WPA cuts as a result of the all-time low of only $975,000,000 requested by the President for the full fiscal year. Average WPA enrollment for the 1942 fiscal year will come to only 1,300,000.

FEWER NEW JOBS

These WPA cuts are viewed here as all the more serious because of indications that there will be even fewer new jobs created by the arms boom from now on.

The Economic Outlook pointed to the fact that construction of cantonments and other buildings for the arms program has already reached its peak and will soon show a sharp decline.

Approximately 580,000 construction workers were employed on government projects in January, and only 16,300 will continue working on these projects in December, 1941.

While a certain number of construction workers will be reemployed on new projects, it is believed that the peak in this industry has been passed and that there will now be considerate unemployment of building workers.

Many other industries, including steel for example, are now working at capacity and there is little likelihood that they will provide any new jobs.

Another factor which has caused severe unemployment in some industries is the administration program of curtailing production of goods by imposing priorities for war production.

The CIO National Association of Die Casting Workers has charged that 10,000 workers in the die casting industry will be thrown out of work if the aluminum priorities order issued by the Office of Production Management goes into effect on April 11 as scheduled.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

SPEED-UP PLAN WORKS HAVOC ON FAMALE WORKERS

200 Forced to Quit as Card Punchers Due to Injuries, NNC Charges

MAY 31 1941

Because of a speed-up production schedule instituted in the machine tabulation division of the United States Census Bureau here last January, 200 Negro and white girls employed there as card punchers face the prospect of permanent disability because they are suffering from occupational myositis, the National Negro Congress revealed this week.

According to physicians, occupational myositis is an inflamatory condition of the muscle fibres brought on by undue strain. In severe cases it results in the development of a ganglion or swelling on the tendon or nerve fibre, which necessitates an operation in order to obtain relief.

Since last January scores of workers suffering from this occupational disease, have been forced to stop work. In the majority of cases, although they have been treated by the United States Public Health Service physicians who have recommended that they are eligible for other work, but must give up card punching, they have not been assigned other jobs, and in addition have received no compensation during their period of illness.

Keeps Negro Girls Out

Characterizing the situation as an extension of the callous Jim Crow policy operating in the bureau, which has kept Negro girls from obtaining better jobs in other Government departments, the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, in conjunction with Local 23, of the United Federal Workers of America (CIO), has launched an investigation with a view to remedying a condition that may eventually victimize 3,000 girls, 600 of them Negroes, who are now doing this type of work.

Approximately ninety-five per cent of the Negroes employed by the Bureau work on card punching machines, considered the most difficult work in the Bureau.

Although approximately fifty per cent of the white workers who have been released from work in this department in the past, have been offered other jobs including clerical positions in other branches of the Bureau, none of the more than 200 Negro workers who have been let out during the past three months, has received an offer of another job.

Since last February, the National Negro Congress, together with the U.F.W.A. Local 23, has sought to have these conditions remedied in addition to having the Census Bureau abolish its Jim Crow policy which excludes Negro workers from using its cafeteria together with whites.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

The Globe Trotter

By Cliff Mackay

THE PHYLON INSTITUTE

THROUGH THIS writer's mind is whirling a maze of figures, of charts and of statistics which definitely prove to even the few who may have doubted it that the Negro is not getting his full and proporionate share in this thing called democracy. The mathematical nightmare was the result of sitting through three sessions of the First Phylon Institute and the Twenty-fifth Atlanta University Conference called by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois during the past week-end.

Government experts and the "best brains" among Negroes discussed and debated in its entirety the profound theme: "The Economic Condition and Trends of American Negroes and Plans for their Economic Security."

MACKAY

REPORTS ARE MADE

Heard were reports from observers in widely separated sections of the nation. They detailed for the most part the few bright spots in their particular community, and then all came right down to the same summary that Negroes are just not considered in the South, the North, the East, nor the West for any of the jobs demanding technical skill, consequently offering the greatest remuneration.

Government experts explained how the United States through what one speaker termed "sanctions" sought to guarantee the Negro's equal participation in the various federal agencies, but in the end admitted that those holding power in the local communities are wise in the ways of evading these clauses.

All of the discussions left unanswered the very puzzling question, what to do to bring about this needed economic security? The fact that this problem after all the discussions remained unsolved has raised another question in this writer's mind. Just how effective in actually accomplishing anything are all the sundry conferences that are perennially held by, over and about the unhappy situation of the Negro in this country.

DISCUSS LABOR MOVEMENT

Learned scholars took the floor and discussed at length the labor movement. How Negroes where they had integrated themselves into unions stood so much better chances of securing employment under the defense program. How skilled Negro workers in those sections where they had not been permitted to form locals, were not securing any work in their trades. Statistics, graphs and charts proved their point.

Yet somehow or other the crazy idea popped into this writer's mind that this information would have sounded so much more authentic coming from the lips of someone who has actually stood on a picket line. Or from someone from the rank and file of labor who wears a union button and has faced the wrath of irate employers because of his efforts to organize workers.

The same reaction gripped us concerning the very learned discussions about Negro business. There may have been a few there who had operated businesses, but for the most part their sole knowledge of business was what had been obtained through academic halls.

In Atlanta, more so possibly than any other city, there are Negroes actually engaged in business, who could have given a much more practical illustration of the problems Negro business men face. None of these were called in.

ANOTHER QUESTION

And then the question arose in this writer's mind as to just how many of these experts in economics and social science were making more than academic use of their higher knowledge in these fields. How many, who were speaking so fluently of union organization, of lack of job opportunities, and of the poor management of Negro business had actually gone out into their communities and made definite efforts to do something about it?

Possessing all of this advanced knowledge, logically they should be the leaders in this needed campaign among Negroes everywhere. The question was not posed on the floor of the conference for fear it might embarrass too many of the profound theorists present.

The most ironic thing that occurred during the conference came when Robert C. Weaver of the Office of Production Management was speaking of job opportunities for Negro skilled workers. He was lamenting the denial of jobs to these workers in most sections of the country. Several delegates gazing through the window of the Atlanta University library lecture room to the scene across the street probably laughed.

NOT A BLACK FACE

Over there a million dollars was being spent to erect the new Clark College. The strongest building unions among Negroes in Atlanta are those of the trowel trades—bricklaying, plastering and cement finishing. But not a black face could be seen filling this demand for skilled artisans on Clark College.

And that raised another question. What were the economists and sociologists of Clark doing when these contracts were drawn up without including the proviso that Negro skilled labor was to be used whenever it was available? Oh well! Why mention it? Perhaps they were out of the city with their charts and graphs attending a conference on the "economic condition and trends of American Negroes and plans for their economic security."

NOTE: CONTRACTORS FOR THE NEW CLARK COLLEGE--
BARGE AND THOMPSON, CONTRACTORS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

First Phylon Confab Meets After 25 Years

MAY 3 - 1941

ATLANTA, May 1 (ANP)—There has just been held at Atlanta university the first Phylon institute and 25th Atlanta University conference. This is a resumption, after a pause of nearly a quarter of a century, of the former Atlanta University Conferences which gained such wide notice from 1897 to 1914. The publications of these conferences form two large volumes which for many years were the chief sources of sociological information concerning the Negro.

The new series of conferences just started have a more specific objective. They will seek to study the economic condition of American Negroes and plans for their future economic security. The final conferences took place three days, April 17, 18 and 19, and were attended by 51 delegates representing 35 institutions and a number of individual listeners. Among the speakers were W. J. Trent, Jr., of FWA; Robert C. Weaver of OPM; William H. Dean, Jr., of Atlanta University and representatives from Fisk, Hampton and Tuskegee, the TVA and other speakers from Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.

MAY 3 - 1941

A public meeting on Friday discussed economic security for the darker races and was addressed by several presidents of land-grant colleges and by Tracy Phillips of the British foreign office, who has spent long years in colonial administration in Africa.

The final session was a discussion of various suggested remedies for present conditions with emphasis on consumers' co-operation as carried on at Tuskegee, Georgia State college and Paine college. It is planned to have a second session of this institute in April, 1942.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Letters To The Editor

APR 28 1941

Suggests Gigantic Lobby To Present Position of the Negro

Editor, Atlanta Daily WORLD: I have read the incisive analysis and observation made in your Globe-Trotter column on the Phylon Institute recently projected, in Atlanta, by the professors. That final sentence was a masterpiece in summing up most of our trouble.

May I quote: "perhaps they were out of the city with their charts and graphs attending a conference," et cetera. It has been our experience, with one or two very heartening exceptions, by and large, you are correct. The professors of the Race neither organize nor support union movements, nor business. They are the classic example, as you so well put it, of preachers who never follow their own instructions. It is actually possible that they are fooling themselves in talking much about that which they do not understand.

APR 28 1941

I firmly believe that the one way out is to set up a well financed lobby in Washington, manned by selected persons who have succeeded in their respective fields to chart the course along legislative and administrative kubes of the federal government.

By the way, it is, of course, unnecessary to remind you that all the great forces of the country have over the years and are consecrating now, in Washington, as never before great organized financial forces and man power to protect, advance and gain every advantage possible in their own interest. This is true of the two great labor organizations, the manufacturing associations, the Chamber of Commerce, the agricultural associations, the great church denominations, veterans organizations, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Red Cross and all the rest. The Negro alone has missed the "Bus" up to this hour.

I am trying to say, that the essence of the matter is centered in Washington and our whole opportunity for employment in the government and outside of it, our security and destiny is envolved in the interpretation, participation, understanding and utilization of legislative and administrative acts, first of the federal government and then the state, county and municipalities. We must understand the government's processes and make them work for us to receive the benefits of free democratic institutions.

APR 28 1941

If every Negro in the country will pay ten cents a month in a common pool, such finance to be administered by Negro bankers, proven and experienced, and of which we have sufficient; organizers, such as insurance executives, of whom the number is great; church leaders, with a combination of business sense and inspirational power; professors for research, study and interpretation and Negro "career" men and women, to implement and direct the political forces of this mass effort to gain the favorable response of the congress and administrators of the federal departments and agencies on every front, civil, military, educational, social, and economic. A propaganda director, in the center of it all, commanding the forces of the press, radio, theatre and every other forum resigned to dramatize the principles and practices of democracy as moulded by the inexorable force of public opinion. To start this movement we appeal to all Americans, everywhere, to fittingly observe National Negro Freedom Day, on July 6, 1941, especially in Negro churches throughout every section of the country.

APR 28 1941

First preach it, secure the financial contributions of all persons, individually and collectively in doing their bit to join in this united front to keep up the fight to enable the organization to carry on eternally, at the seat of the nation's government in Washington. Twelve million united, militant, insistant and persistent voices and force would compel decent and faithful application of the inalienable and equal rights guaranteed by the constitution to all American citizens, regardless of race, creed or color. We believe it is in the power of your pen. Atlanta's businessmen, Atlanta's laborers, Atlanta's churches, Atlanta's people, Atlanta's schools, Atlanta's press, Atlanta's World, to call the conference to end conferences and to say to everybody everywhere, "let us do it now!"

EDGAR G. BROWN,
President, United Government
Employees, Inc.,
~~Washington~~ D. C.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THE PHYLON INSTITUTE

APR 26 1941

DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS, one time director of the Department of Records and Research of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and editor of The Crisis Magazine, has issued a call from Atlanta University, where he is a member of the faculty, for a conference of Negro leaders to map out a program for the American Negro for the next decade. The preliminary work is being handled by the Atlanta University Conference, and it is planned to complete the work of organization in April 1942 when representatives from forty-one institutions have promised to be present. Dr. DuBois calls his group the First Phylon Institute.

In his call Dr. DuBois says, let us gird ourselves carefully and deliberately:

APR 26 1941

1. To learn what our present economic condition is, not in vague generalizations; but in minute, careful, historical and factual study covering the whole United States and penerating every state and locality.

2. As we know the truth, historical and present, let us begin slowly and persistently to plan the remedy—to lay down long term plans with infinite pains and never satisfied experiment:

(a) To put the Negro to work.

(b) To insure for him a decent wage and a civilized standard of living.

(c) To organize his consumer power.

(d) To introduce into his own efforts democratic control of industry and income.

(e) To Build eventually on this solid sub-structure of self-support, a political power for organizing real democracy.

(f) Finally and primarily, to build a new world of culture by loosing human talent of every kind from the chains of poverty and prejudice.

APR 26 1941

Certainly this is an ambitious program and its realization would make this country a Utopia for the Negro. But many existing organizations are striving toward the same end and a more practical approach would be instead of organizing the Phylon Institute, Dr. DuBois could rejoin the N. A. A. C. P., and hold the conference under its auspices, since it has branches in all parts of the country and is functioning as a national body, or if he prefers he could get the National Negro Congress, the National Urban League, one of the Negro church denominations or any other such organization that is already established to adopt his program.

We recall that Dr. DuBois issued a similar call for a Pan-African Conference following the last war but this movement never developed because of its author's inability to work with others. The late Dr. Kelly Miller had a similar idea in his Sanhedrin Call but that too lacked popular support and fell through aborning.

APR 26 1941

In our opinion we have plenty of existing organizations if our intellectuals would but join them and work through them. Leadership of the masses does not come from above and there is no such thing as an aristocracy of brains. When our leaders realize this they they will also realize the futility of forming a super-organization of Negro talent and trying to impose their leadership on the masses from above, rather than getting down on a level with the man of of the street and offering to work with him.

35g-1941 FIRST PHYLON INSTITUTE

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

The Globe Trotter • By Cliff Mackay

Savannah Journal

THE PHYLON INSTITUTE

Savannah, Ga.

THROUGH THIS writer's mind is whirling a maze of figures, of charts and of statistics which definitely prove to even the few who may have doubted it that the Negro is not getting his full and proportionate share in this thing called democracy. The mathematical nightmare was the result of sitting through three sessions of the First Phylon Institute and the Twenty-fifth Atlanta University Conference called by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois during the past week-end.

APR 26 1941

Government experts and the "best brains" among Negroes discussed and debated in its entirety the profound theme: "The Economic Condition and Trends of American Negroes and Plans for their Economic Security."

MACKAY

REPORTS ARE MADE

Heard were reports from observers in widely separated sections of the nation. They detailed for the most part the few bright spots in their particular community, and then all came right down to the same summary that Negroes are just not considered in the South, the North, the East, nor the West for any of the jobs demanding technical skill, consequently offering the greatest remuneration.

Government experts explained how the United States through what one speaker termed "sanctions" sought to guarantee the Negro's equal participation in the various federal agencies, but in the end admitted that those holding power in the local communities are wise in the ways of evading these clauses.

All of the discussions left unanswered the very puzzling question, what to do to bring about this needed economic security? The fact that this problem after all the discussions remained unsolved has raised another question in this writer's mind. Just how effective in actually accomplishing anything are all the sundry conferences that are perennially held by, over and about the unhappy situation of the Negro in this country.

APR 26 1941

DISCUSS LABOR MOVEMENT

Learned scholars took the floor and discussed at length the labor movement. How Negroes where they had integrated themselves into unions stood so much better chances of securing employment under the defense program. How skilled Negro workers in those sections where they had not been permitted to form locals, were not securing any work in their trades. Statistics, graphs and charts proved their point.

Yet somehow or other the crazy idea popped into this writer's mind that this information would have sounded so much more authentic coming from the lips of someone who has actually stood on a picket line. Or from someone from the rank and file of labor who wears a union button and has faced the wrath of irate employers because of his efforts to organize workers.

APR 26 1941

The same reaction gripped us concerning the very learned discussions about Negro business. There may have been a few there who had operated businesses, but for the most part their sole knowledge of business was what had been obtained through academic halls.

In Atlanta, more so possibly than any other city. there are Negroes actually engaged in business, who could have given a much more practical illustration of the problems Negro business men face. None of these were called in.

ANOTHER QUESTION

And then the question arose in this writer's mind as to just how many of these experts in economics and social science were making more than academic use of their higher knowledge in these fields. How many, who were speaking so fluently of union organization, of lack of job opportunities, and of the poor management of Negro business had actually gone out into their communities and made definite efforts to do something about it?

Possessing all of this advanced knowledge, logically they should be the leaders in this needed campaign among Negroes everywhere. The question was not posed on the floor of the conference for fear it might embarrass too many of the profound theorists present.

The most ironic thing that occurred during the conference came when Robert C. Weaver of the Office of Production Management was speaking of job opportunities for Negro skilled workers. He was lamenting the denial of jobs to these workers in most sections of the country. Several delegates gazing through the window of the Atlanta University library lecture room to the scene across the street probably laughed.

NOT A BLACK FACE

APR 26 1941

Over there a million dollars was being spent to erect the new Clark College. The strongest building unions among Negroes in Atlanta are those of the trowel trades—bricklaying, plastering and cement finishing. But not a black face could be seen filling this demand for skilled artisans on Clark College.

And that raised another question. What were the economists and sociologists of Clark doing when these contracts were drawn up without including the proviso that Negro skilled labor was to be used whenever it was available? Oh well! Why mention it? Perhaps they were out of the city with their charts and graphs attending a conference on the "economic condition and trends of American Negroes and plans for their economic security."

SOUTHERN CIVILIZATION

Savannah Journal

[Events And Comments]

Savannah, Ga

By ASA H. GORDON, A.M., Litt.D.

THE PHYLON INSTITUTE

APR 26 1941

Last week-end we had the rare privilege of attending the first Phylon Institute assembled and directed by Doctor W. E. B. Du Bois at the exhibition room of the Atlanta University Library. We were present as a representative of the Division of Research and Publications of the Georgia State College. In his call to the meeting, Dr. DuBois stated that the Phylon Insitute is essentially a revival of the scientific study of the problems of the American Democracy centering around the Negro Minority as a challenge to a democratic way of life in our country, especially the south. Nothing which Atlanta University has attempted since its formation is more in line with the traditions and he aspirations of the "Old A. U." than this attempt to center scientific investigation upon our life and struggles in trying to make a living and to live.

APR 26 1941

Excellent papers were read by Doctor Weaver and Trent of Federal agencies recounting what is being done in the Defense. Industries toward integration of the Negro. These two experts pointed out the methods by which the Federal Government is trying to get justice in the way as jobs which of course bears directly upon the problem.

We believe that these discussions would have been of more value if the program had been so arranged that those present could have asked more questions. It is true that those present did not seem over anxious to ask questions.

As is true of most scientific experts, the participants seemed reluctant to commit themselves as to solutions. Most of the authorities seemed to be about as much at a lost as to what to do about it all as the men and women on the street wih the exception of those who offered the cooperative as one way out of a small segment of the difficulty. Among those who made the best suggestions was Professor J. H. Gadson of the Department of Business Practice of the Georgia State College.

Doctor Dean of the Atlanta University Economics Staff is to be commended upon his graphic representation of the economic situation and the lucidity of his explanations of his statistics.

On the whole the conference was quite useful and in line with the Atlanta University spirit of thoroughness and service to the Negro race.

We presen below the "Summary and Forecast" which Doctor DuBois gave at the closing meeting:

I

APR 26 1941

A. If thirteen million people starve to death, it is because they are stupid.

B. Many American Negroes today are virtually starving.

II

A. There is no such thing as lack of useful, needed work.

B. There is wide and dangerous lack of adequate wage and income for certain individuals.

III

A. Facing these paradoxes the world is changing its economic organization today to meet them and is planning further change.

B. We as a minority group must plan also, not in opposition but in intelligent accord with this general world planning.

IV

APR 26 1941

A. We must especially beware of propaganda and distortion as to the present economic conditions and changes in the world.

1. We must not assume that business enterprise and economic welfare are synonymous terms and that because a business is profitable it is for that reason benefi-

cial to the race or nation.

2. We must not assume that because racial organization cannot hire thirteen million Negroes it cannot and should not hire thirteen thousand or more.

3. Because, as a minority group, we must in the main conform to the national economic patterns, is no proof that we cannot by intelligent action influence these patterns to our advantage.

APR 26 1941

V

A. Finally ,we must get at the facts by the latest scientific technique:

B. We must gather, study, test and interpret these facts.

C. Within limits of law and order we must experiment with end order we must experiment with and test remedies.

D. We must remember that the starvation of Negroes in the United States benefits nobody; that full employment at a living wage for all Negroes as well as whites, is at once the greatest patriotism and the greatest defense against war and evil.

W. E. B Du Bois.

35g-1941 FLORIDA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Florida Skilled Workers Hired On Airport Project

MAR 1 1941 MAR 1 1941

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 27—Local citizens, working through a combined civic organization, scored a signal victory here last week when they were successful in obtaining the employment of 30 carpenters on the local airport construction project.

The group obtained immediate results when a delegation, headed by Bishop Robert A. Jackson, called on the construction management and asked for the employment of colored workers on the defense project.

The delegation not only obtained the 30 jobs, but a promise that the number of Negroes employed would be increased to 125. Carpenters on the project are paid $9 per day.

Bishop Jackson is a nationally-known militant churchman and has endeared himself to local citizens since making his home here. He is formerly of Baltimore and was exalted ruler of Paramount Lodge No. 526 of the Elks.

35g-1941

FLORIDA

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
August 9, 1941

WAITING FOR THE LAW

DUNEDIN.—Now that the hue and cry about Pegler's lynching article of some weeks ago has died down, I ~~would~~ like to remind you of your editorial in which you stated you would inform the redoubtable Westbrook of the prompt and effective action taken by the law enforcement authorities of our fair state.

I have not noticed any information of this nature conveyed to Mr. Pegler through your paper. Just what action has been taken, if any? I would be interested to learn this, and trust when and IF you do have an opportunity to inform Mr. Pegler of the apprehension and punishment of the culprits, you will be sure to publish a copy of your letter in The Tribune.

35g-1941
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

GENERAL

Dr. Weaver Reveals 5,000 Skilled and Semi-Skilled at Work

---

103 Negro Apprentices Being Trained in Shipyard Schools; Urge Negroes to Apply for Many Jobs Now Open

FEB 28 1941

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—One of the strangest paradoxes of the national defense program—but one which may increase the ranks of skilled Negro workers and add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the race's annual income, was uncovered here this week in connection with the U. S. Navy department.

In an exclusive interview with Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant in the division of the labor supply of the National Defense Advisory Council, it was revealed.

Although the navy restricts its Negro recruits to the rank of messmen, the U. S. Navy department itself maintains no barriers to the enrollment and subsequent employment of Negro apprentices in its 10 U. S. Navy yards. In fact, its certification regulations for mechanical workers at navy yards make more difficult the practice of racial discrimination by appointing officers than do the rules established by federal and civil service commissions.

As a result of these regulations, 103 Negro apprentices were being trained in shipyard apprentice schools on Oct. 1, 1940, and more than 5,000 Negro skilled and semi-skilled workers were employed in U. S. Navy Yards in Boston; Charleston, S. C.; Mare Island, Cal.; Brooklyn; Norfolk; Philadelphia; Portsmouth, N. H.; Puget Sound, Wash.; and Washington, D. C.

The exact number of Negro employes in the U. S. Navy Yards, 118 professional and technical workers; 1,003 artisans, skilled workers; 4,153 semi-skilled workers; 557 unskilled workers and 103 apprentices, was released to the ANP by Dr. Weaver from a survey which the navy department conducted at his request last September.

Pointing out that apprentices receive 36 cents per hour while in training and that the more than 5,000 Negro skilled and semi-skilled workers are receiving wages ranging from $4.42 to more than $10 a day, Dr. Weaver urged Negro youths to apply for ship yard apprentice positions at their local U. S. district Civil Service offices.

"Any youth who places high on the apprentice list in the semi-annual examinations has an excellent chance for appointment to an opening in one of the yards," Dr Weaver said, "for the appointing officers of the apprentice schools are not permitted to choose one from the three highest. He must appoint the highest eligible."

To substantiate his statement, Dr. Weaver read Section 94 of the navy department's civil personnel regulations. It reads:

FEB 28 1941

"Certifications (apprentices) the name of the highest eligible who has indicated his willingness to accept employment in the particular trade in which a vacancy exists shall be certified. Employment will remove his name from the eligible register and he will not be eligible for employment under any of the other ratings specified in his application."

This regulation differs materially from the 1-in-3 system maintained in most civil service rules. This latter system has drawn criticism from Negro eligibles who have accused appointing officers of discriminating against them because of their race.

Although stressing the opportunities for Negro apprentices, Dr. Weaver also urged skilled and semi-skilled Negro shipyard workers to compete for the large number of civil service jobs now open in the U. S. Navy yards.

"At the present moment, in the navy yard in Boston," he said, "applications are now open for competitive examinations in at least 40 categories, ranking from anglesmith to welder. At the Brooklyn Navy yard skilled workers are being sought in 23 categories. These jobs pay from 69 cents to $1.14 per hour.

"In the same way, pipe fitters are being sought for the Charleston Navy yard at $7.84 to $8.80 a day; iron workers, boiler makers, sheet metal workers and similar workers are needed at the Norfolk Navy yard at $7.52 to $8.48 a day. Machinists and toolmakers are needed at the Philadelphia Navy yard. These men will be paid from 94 cents to $1.12 an hour. Applications for examinations for any of these and scores of others may be obtained at any U. S. District Civil Servivce Commission office."

According to the navy department survey made public by Dr. Weaver, Negro workers constitute 2.01 percent of the 10,895 technical and professional workers in the 10 navy yards, (as of October 1, 1940) 1.83 percent of the 54.737 skilled workers; 14.56 percent of the 28,421 semi-skilled workers, 78.01 percent of the 714 unskilled workers and 2.91 percent of the 3,537 apprentices in training on that date.

"Our current drive for a two-ocean navy, and the possibility that naval vessels of Great Britain may be repaired in American Navy yards can mean increased job opportunities for Negro workers," Dr. Weaver concluded, "But Negro workers themselves must help create these opportunities. They can do this by taking the navy department civil service examinations and by seeking enrollment in the navy yard apprentice schools."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Professional Jobs Are Open To College Grads

FEB 21 1941

NEW YORK, City—(SNS) — All Negro college graduates and senior students throughout the country were urged this week to send for an application blank for the U. S. Civil Service examination No. 13 JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT at $2,000 a year.

Hundreds of appointments are made to the government service each year from the list provided by this examination, and persons who pass it successfully are eligible for jobs in almost every branch of Federal government service. The only important requirement for applicants is that they be either graduates or senior students of a recognized college, under 35 years of age, and in good physical condition.

FEB 21 1941

Full information about requirements, and application blanks, may be obtained by writing the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Blanks must be filled out and placed on file in Washington before February 25.

Other Civil Service examinations being offered at the present time include the following:

No. 12—Dental Laboratory Mechanic, $1,620 to 2,000 a year.

No. 14— Student Aid, $1,440 a year. This examination is open to junior and senior students in colleges of recognized standing appointments being made for employment during the school vacation periods.

FEB 21 1941

No. 38—Graduate Nurse, $1,800 to $2,000 a year, for appointme in the Indian Field Service of the Department of the Interior.

No. 42—Mechanical Engineer, $2,600 to $5, 600 a year, for appointment to the Bureau of Mines Department of the Interior and the Regional Research Laboratories of the Department of Agriculture.

No. 41— Agricultural Program Analyst, $2,600 to $5,600 a year, for appointment in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Lack Of Jobs Greater Among Urban Youths

WASHINGTON — Unemployment is proportionately greater among Negro youth than among white youth in the cities, a new WPA pamphlet states as one of its conclusions regarding the job opportunities of urban youth.

The publication, "Thirty Thousand Urban Youth," is the sixth in a non-technical series on social problems issued by the Work Projects Administration. The study on which it was based disclosed that 40 of every 100 Negro youth in the labor market of seven representative cities were without jobs as compared to 18 of every 100 white youth.

MAR 1 1941

EXTREMES

Occupation of parents, age, sex, city and race, taken in combination, were found to affect employment and wages of youth in cities. For example, nine out of every ten whites males in the oldest youth group in the Binghamton, N. Y., labor market had fulltime jobs in November, 1938. At the other extreme, one out of every seven Negro girls from the youngest group in St. Louis was employed full time.

The information presented in the pamphlet, which was written by Stanley L. Payne, was based on interviews with 30,000 youth in Binghamton, N. Y., Birmingham, Ala., Denver, Colo., Duluth, Minn., St. Louis, Mo., San Francisco, Calif., and Seattle, Wash. These centers of various sizes offered diverse economic and social patterns, providing a composite picture of urban youth.

HARDEST HIT

"Where there was a lack of full-time employment, Negro youth were hardest hit," Mr. Payne writes. "In Birmingham, altho 70 per cent of the white youth had full-time private employment, only 43 per cent of the Negro youth had full-time jobs. This racial disparity was even greater in St. Louis, where 77 per cent of the white youth in the labor market and only 39 per cent of the Negro youth had full-time work."

The all-important matter of income is discussed in the current WPA study on urban youth. It is shown that among the young people living in the seven cities surveyed, Negroes were employed full-time with average weekly earnings of $9.70. The average for white youths stood at $17.90.

"Nor can this difference be explained in terms of wage differentials between the North and South" the pamphlet says. "In Birmingham, for example, the difference was even greater than in the above figures. Average weekly earnings for white youth in Birmingham were $17.20 and those of Negro youth were only $8.50."

MAJOR PROBLEMS

Under such sub-titles as "Two Can Live if Both Work," "Young Wives Hold Jobs," "Will Youth Please Wait," and "Equal Educational Opportunity—Regardless of Race?" the WPA publication sets forth all of the major problems confronting urban youth of working age.

Without resorting to the use of complicated tables, the pamphlet gives figures showing the relation of the father's occupation to youth's schooling and later success in escaping unemployment.

"Part of these differences in unemployment by occupation of father is a race difference due to the concentration of Negro fathers in the lower occupational brackets" Mr. Payne explains in his report. "Yet, in cities where race was no factor, the children of unskilled fathers had more unemployment than those of semi-skilled workers; the latter had more unemployment than the children of skilled workers, and so on. Differences in unemployment were not so great in these cities as in southern cities, but they were substantial nevertheless."

MAR 1 1941

Opportunities for all youth do exist, but "they do not exist for all in the same proportion. All may eat, but some are given bigger spoons than others," the WPA pamphlet says.

FAVORITISM SHOWN

It is also shown that white youth are favored over Negro youth; youth in prosperous cities over those in depressed cities; children of white-collar workers over children of unskilled workers; youth from high rental areas over youth from low-rental areas; and youth advanced in school over those retarded in school.

Warning against the dangers of thinking of education as a mere stopgap for unemployment, "Thirty Thousand Urban Youth" says "care should be exercised that education values themselves be not subordinated to the use of education as an unemployment remedy. This danger can be averted if the question is resolved on the basis of whether more education would benefit youth and not whether it would help the labor market."

The study advocates education programs having greater appeal both in subject matter and form; and the continuation of financial aid to youth who otherwise could not remain in high school and college.

"By such policies the trend toward better education for a larger proportion of our population could be accelerated, and unemployment would incidentally be reduced," the publication says.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Nat'l Conference Of Race Leaders Called In New York

John W. Dobbs Among Those Asked To Attend Meeting

JUN 7 1941

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Invitations to "the real leaders of the Negro masses, not the puppets," to attend a three-day conference here on Aug. 15, 16, and 17 were sent out last week to at least 15 individuals and organizations which have done "significant work" in their sections. The conference is being sponsored by the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment, and announcement of the call was made through its executive secretary, Arnold Johnson.

Purpose of the conference will be to either give reality to the national aspirations of the coordinating committee encompassed in its new constitution adopted two weeks ago, or to establish some practical medium for united action and the exchange of ideas and experiences to the advantage of Negroes everywhere.

SEES OPPORTUNITY

In the letter of invitation, which was sent as far west as Los Angeles and as far south as Miami, the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., co-chairman of the committee, said:

"This hour of national crisis offers black people an unparralleled opportunity to close ranks and move ahead. The future of American democracy is wrapped up in the solution of the Negro people. The hour has arrived for the Negro mass to move under its own power or die.

"You have done significant work in your section in elevating the level of the Negro mass. We have tried to do our best here in New York. We feel the hour has arrived for real leaders of the Negro masses, not the puppets, the fronts, the parade horses, but the real leaders such as yourself to come together and to share the experiences that have been ours during the past years—the experience of victory and the experience of defeat as well."

The letter emphasized the undesirableness of having political organizations or those "dominated in in any way by any isms" participating in these conferences but rather encouraged those groups interested in the "second emancipation of the Negro race."

DOBBS INVITED

Release of the announcement was accompanied by the following statement in behalf of Dr. Powell:

"Through the years, Negroes have been struggling throughout this broad country for exactly the same things—political equality and social justice. Our fights have been single-handed, spontaneous and inordinate and yet victory has been ours on many occasions. It is the hope and desire of we who are sponsoring this move, however, to co-ordinate and give guidance to these many individual efforts with the end in mind that there shall develop a national unity, purpose and action."

Invitations were sent to Sam B. Johnson, Miami, Fla.; Dr. John Henry Terrell, West Pam Beach, Fla.; George Fuller, Savannah, Ga.; John Wesley Dobbs, Atlanta; the New Negro Alliance, Washington, D. C.; the City-Wide Young People's Forum, Baltimore; the Youth Council, Philadelphia; Carter W. Wesley, Houston Informer; Rev. A. S. Jackson, Dallas; Joe Jefferson and Archibald Carey, Chicago; Snow F. Grigsby, Detroit; Rev. Clayton Russell, Los Angeles; Dr. Allen F. Jackson, Hartford, Conn.; and Parnell Talley, Pittsburgh.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

DALLAS REDCAP CASE HEADED TO SHOW-DOWN

Labor Administrator Acts As Friend Of Court In Move For Review

JUN 7 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Supreme Court has been asked to review the question of whether tips are wages under the Fair Labor Standards Act in a memorandum filed by the Solicitor General in behalf of General Philip B. Fleming, administrator of the wage and hour division, Department of Labor.

The administrator, as a friend of the court, has intervened in the suit brought by red caps employed at the Union Terminal company, Dallas, Texas, against the terminal company for restitution of wages under the wage and hour law.

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the fifth district last month found that tips received by red caps constituted wages paid to them, reversing the judgment of the court below which had found in favor of the red caps and awarded them $77,753.98 in back pay and liquidated damages.

The memorandum was submitted in support of a petition for a writ of certiorari which seeks to bring this case before the Supreme Court as a test case and thus judicially settle a question which affects the method of compensation of the more than 6,000 red caps employed in railroad terminals throughout the country.

Over 15 suits by red caps against railroads on this question involving several million dollars are now pending.

Indirectly affected are all workers who receive all or part of their remuneration in the form of tips. A recent government survey estimates their number throughout the country to be approximately 888,500. Most of these are waiters, who are not covered by the wage and hour law. Many of them are under state minimum wage orders.

The red caps maintain that tips cannot be considered as part of wages paid, but that the statutory minimum wage of 30 cents an hour should be paid by the terminals without regard to tips.

The terminals on the other hand take the position that tips can be considered part of the 30 cents minimum wage. Under a so-called accounting and guarantee plan the Dallas terminal had required the red caps to report the amount of tips received and the number of hours worked and at the end of the week had paid the difference if tips did not equal the minimum wage.

This accounting and guarantee plan was put into operation by the Dallas Terminal company at the time the wage and hour law became effective in October 1938. Similar plans were used by numerous terminal companies to pay their red caps. These plans have since been abandoned in favor of a ten cents a parcel plan utilizing tickets.

The solicitor general contends that the action of the terminal company in allowing the red caps to keep their property did not constitute the payment of wages within the meaning of the wage and hour law.

The memorandum includes for the court's consideration a report prepared last November by the administrator for Senator Elbert D. Thomas, chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, in which he reviewed the problem of wages and other conditions of employment of red caps at various terminals.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Reid Tells Of 19 Problems To Be Studied

Says Separate Units Keep Alive Racial Issues

JUN 1 5 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—A complete reorganization of the bureau of employment security, especially the race relations unit dealing with Negroes as part of the minority groups of the United States, has been accomplished through a plan submitted by Dr. Ira DeA. Reid, who spent several months making a study of the situation in order to make the proper and best recommendations.

Listing 19 points which presented problems for the department as far as service to Negroes is concerned, Dr. Reid pointed out the need for specific changes in each of these problems.

"It is noted," said Dr. Reed, "that [illegible] the problems presented are those of race alone. Most of them have their basic setting in the regular functions of the employment service, the race issue involved being but an overtone. A great danger inherent in any planning to meet such problems, is that of regarding problems of administration or operations as 'race problems', and setting up new organizations to handle them. In some instances, separate racial units actually keep alive the problems they are supposed to eradicate, so anxious are their officers to make others 'aware' of the problem."

KEEPS ALIVE ISSUES

Dr. Reid then pointed out in his summation of the survey, that the present racial relations unit of the bureau had tended to keep alive the race issues, on the hand, and to work in a fashion unrelated to regular bureau activities, on the other.

"Many necessary steps have been taken by the unit," Dr. Reid continued, "but in too many instances, these steps have been directed toward no specific end. Add to this the facts, the racial relations unit has had in the past, no correlated program; its workers have had little or no technical supervision, its general usefulness within the bureau has not been noted, and, its services have not been [illegible] functionally necessary, and one has reached to the core of the present difficulty with respect to that unit."

Dr. Reid pointed out that the bureau of employment security had a definite need for some type of service that will enable it to better handle the various problems with respect to the Negro population that effects its program. It must be kept in mind, also, he concludes that the problems with respect to Negroes are the only minority problems that have necessitated special organization and special techniques within the service of the bureau and its cooperating state and local agencies.

TO KEEP PERSONNEL

"In areas where these procedures have been established there are many reasons for believing that they will be followed, and to a

JUN 15 1941

great extent, for some time to come."

Under the newly adopted plan, there will be a retention of the present personnel assisted by a consultant in charge, with one supervisor, field representative, six technical assistants and three stenographic and clerical helpers in the office.

The consultant in charge will, in cooperation with the chief of the special service division, initiate the development of a program in keeping with the bureau's and the division's aims. The development should take at least three months.

JUN 15 1941

Among the problems listed by Dr. Reid in his analysis of the situation are the following:

1. In service training of bureau and state personnel on minority problems.
2. Creating effective service for minority groups at federal level.
3, Utilization of Negro personnel at federal and local levels.
4. The Negro divisional office as a functional unit of the local service.
5. Services to Negro applicants in southern states.
6. Office precedures as conditioned by Negro applicants.
7. Competition between welfare placement services and local employment offices.
8. "Selling" Negro labor to the employer.
9. Establishing effective relations with the Negro community.
10. Technical, professional and clerical services available to Negro applicants.
11. State personnel standards and methods and the use of Negro personnel.
12. Selective characteristics in employers' orders.
13. Labor union relations with Negro workers as they affect employment service functioning.
14. Local labor market analyses and the Negro.
15. Problems of interviewer—Negro applicants relations.
16. Problems and procedures of defense training recommendations for Negro applicants.
17, Sectional patterns of minority applicant problems.
18. Examples of favorable experiences with Negro labor.
19. Improve public relations with repect to bureau's employers, white workers and Negro community.

PROBLEMS BROKEN DOWN

Each of these problems was then broken down into procedure to follow in an attempt to remedy the condition existing and placed in responsible units for the follow up. Some of the problems demanded complete reorganization; some called for field study of the situation; others called for analyses and still others called for collection of data and preparation of materials for further help.

In taking over this plan as presented by Dr. Reid, he remains as consultant in charge of the racial relations unit, but this is in connection with his [illegible] work as consultant on minority groups in the employment security bureau of the Social Security bureau.

JUN 15 1941

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

Negro Workers Need More Skill

Since the beginning of The Negro Labor News eleven years ago, it has continuously challenged and educational system to provide more facilities for vocational training for Negro youths. At some time we were damned unpopular because we criticized Negro educators, business and civic leaders for the little interest shown in the industrial training of Negro youths.

JUN 14 1941

Nearly three years ago we selected 100 business men, educators, and other prominent leaders of the race and sent factual letters to them pointing out that there were schemes on in this country by organized labor to work with the educational boards of school systems and other agencies that had to do with distribution of funds for vocational training so that Negroes could not become competitors of the white race in skilled employment. We requested a reply to these letters asking the opinions of the leaders regarding Negro labor and a statement of conditions in their respective communities.

537

Only 5 per cent of the 100 letters mailed were answered. Five per cent returned for incorrect address. This proved to use conclusively that Negro leaders generally, are not interested in the Negro job situation and vocationl training.

Another very discouraging sign pointing out the lack of interest of race leadership in vocational training is that a very few Negro school teachers and business men are consistent readers and subscribers to newspapers and literature published in the interest of the Negro job situation.

Now, on acount of national defense jobs and more work opportunities are opening for trained Negro workers. Negroes are like the foolish virgins who were denied admittance to a feast after being invited, because they did not qualify by putting oil in their lamps before the feast. Our leaders and those to whom we sent letters, are now hollering loudly, DCRIMINATION while job opportunities are passing for the lack of prepardness.

We ditto the following editorial taken from a recent issue of The Omaha Star and urge our readers to accept it as Food For Thought:

JUN 14 1941

Throughout America, the bar of discrimination is being either let down by united action.

An interesting story is told about the successful integration of Negroes as trainees in the Curtis-Wright Aircraft Plant of Buffalo, N. Y.

The story is told that after much effort on the part of the Negroes to have their race employed in the aircraft industries in Buffalo, when the company agreed to accept Negroes, the scramble for qualified Negro Youth began. The committee which had worked so hard to crash the industries for Negro youths found that their task of finding suitable persons was equally as hard if not harder, because it was found that in selecting trainees as apprentices it was necessary to find young men with above average intelligence, with strong personalities, adaptability and physical fitness as a prerequisite.

This, we think, presents a front line problem which those who are interested in defense work must face sooner or later.

Locally, it should stimulate the efforts on the part of citizens who have been fighting to have those in authority here in Omaha give ground work training to the Negro youths so they may be prepared for defense work, lest we find ourselves in the same predicament which faced the race leaders in Buffalo.

---- ---- -- ------

A Statement for thought and if you please, serious thought—If the Glenn Martin Bomber plant or any other Industry in Omaha were to make a call tomorrow for two hundred Negroes to fill certain places where skillful training would be required, we doubt that—We wonder if—we would find the qualified applicants. Should we find ourselves lacking, who is to blame? Opportunities will break no faster than we set the pace.

Remember, it is only a question of time (and a short time we hope) before Negroes will be integrated into all kinds of work in the defense industries. Ministers we beseech you to from the pulpit, presidents of organizations, from the chair, social workers from your respective offices or on the field, newspapers through your columns, to stress, for a brief period, prepardness.

JUN 14 1941

Tribune

Philadelphia, Pa.

Postal Workers Seek National Wage Raise; Blame Living Costs

JUL 3 1941

The hundreds of Negro postal workers in Philadelphia and surrounding areas have joined a nation-wide drive for salary increases, which if granted, will be the first received within 25 years.

Present salaries range from $1260 per year for custodians, to $1,600 for laborers and $1700 to $2100 for mail carriers and post office clerks.

Under a bill (H.R. 1025) sponsored by Senator James M. Mead, (N.Y.) and congressman J. Harold Flannery, (Pa.) all classifications of post office employees would receive a $100 increase in annual salary after 10 years continuous service and another $100 after their 15th year.

Efficiency Up

In the United States, where the mail "must" and does "go through" as nowhere else in the world, this will mean a raise of approximately 5 cents per hour. Efficiency has increased 200 per cent in the last 20 years in the post office but salaries have not.

Postal workers complain that they are being squeezed between stationary salaries and rising prices of living.

JUL 3 1941

All allied Negro organizations are participating in the national drive.

HOOVER SAYS FBI EMPLOYS NEGROES

JUL 3 1941

Savannah Ga.

359

New York—In answer to an inquiry by the NAACP J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (G-men) of the Department of Justice, writes stating:

"Please be advised that this Bureau has no ban on the employment of Negroes, and, as a matter of fact there are a number of Negroes in the employ of this Bureau at the present time. With regard to your question as to the positions in which these persons are employed, you are advised that they are employed in both investigative and clerical capacities."

"Savannah Tribune"

JUL 3 1941

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE OUGHT TO BE A PARTNERSHIP

JAN 24 1941

Capital and labor ought to form a partnership, based upon the mutual understanding between the two; to the end that the interest of one, is the interest of the other; that profits from capital invested is the common property of both; to be equally divided between the two. That is, as profits increase and accrue to capital invested, wages should increase and accrue to labor as a reward for increased production. This is a general rule of fair play that should control relations between capital and labor. If this mutual understanding could be reached between these two schools of thought, independently of governmental regimentation, at the dictation of selfish politicians and the dictation of high salaried labor leaders, and Shylock capitalists, who persecute honest labor; the menace of labor strikes would be reduced to the minimum. No labor organization in America, is able to pay its president a salary equal to the salary of the President of the United States; and no honest labor leader will accept such a salary from day and hour workers under the pretense of protecting their interest by lobbying.

A mutual, friendly understanding between employer and employe, is just as essential as a partnership between capital and labor, and the same kind of honorable partnership, ought to obtain between employer and employe, as we advocate for capital and labor. The average employer and employe, is not so intelligent as capitalist and labor leaders; and we must educate both up to the point, where both can see that their interest is one in common, and their understanding, mutual, and one is dependent upon the other, and that capital without investment will eat itself up and labor without employment will starve to death. Both educated up to this point, both will come to their senses and find common ground to stand upon; and form a mutual partnership. Capital will strive to pay labor higher wages consistent with sound business principles, and labor will strive to increase production at the lowest possible cost, to enable employer to increase its wages to the highest possible figure consistent with increased production, because of labor's entrance as a partner in the business.

JAN 24 1941

Employers must realize that the best way to increase their profits, is to make their employees feel satisfied that they are receiving adequate wages for their service and are not being under paid to increase the profits of their employers; and their employers are interested in seeing to it that their employes receive living wages at all times fully up to the American standard. On the other hand the employe must understand that he must produce enough above the cost of production, and a reasonable profit for his employer, to pay him a living wage measured by the American standard of living. And if he makes nothing for his employer, he must expect nothing from his employer. That wages depend on profits; no profits no wages. In fact, the relation between employer and employe, are like the relation between capital and labor, a partnership; that go up or down together. Big profits, high wages; little profits, low wages. No strikes on the part of labor and no unfairness on the part of employer or employe. A mutual, friendly partnership between the two, is the solution of labor troubles and economic tie ups.

JAN 24 1941

The race prejudice has entered into the question of labor; skilled and unskilled; government and private. There is a well organized plot in the United States to shut the door of all work with the hands in the face of the Negro, as successfully as it has been shut in the white collar field. The Government at Washington prefers to see the Negro on relief rolls, at the expense of tax payers, than to see him on self liquidating work. Union labor is carrying the same policy into private work. The Negro is denied integration in the Army and Navy, to fight for his country; and is denied employment on our National Defense Program. Putting it up to the Negro to steal or perish. This calamity must be changed. Discrimination in the Governments' service must cease in the name of humanity. Capital and organized labor, must mutually open the doors of employment to every Negro, skilled or unskilled, who is willing to work, and give an honest day's labor for an honest American dollar. The Negro can help open the door to himself by giving his employer a better job than the white man can or will give him. Doing work as well as a white man can or will do it; will not answer the demand. The Negro must understand, that in view of the intense prejudice against him, he must do a better job than a good job. He must make his employer larger profits above the cost of production, and larger dividends on his investments, if he expects to be employed in private service along with the white man; and must place himself in a position where he can demand of the Government equal pay for equal work with other citizens of his country.

—Union-Review

Argus.
St. Louis, Missouri

Supreme Court To Decide If Tips Are Wages

WASHINGTON.—The Supreme Court was asked Monday to determine whether tips are wages under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth District ruled last month that the tips received by the porters constituted wages paid to them, reversing the judgment of the lower court which had found in favor of the "red caps" and awarded them $77,753 in back pay and liquidated damages.

MAY 30 1941

The Solicitor General's memorandum is in support of a petition for a writ of certiorari which seeks to make this a test case before the Supreme Court and settle a question which affects the method of compensation of more than 6,000 porters. Mroe than fifteen suits by such employes, involving several million dollars, are now pending.

The 'red caps" contend that tips cannot be considered part of wages paid but that the statutory minimum wage of 30 cents an hour should be paid.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

NEGROES MAY GET SKILLED JOBS AT GEN. MOTORS PLANT

Mich. 4 355

DETROIT, May 21—(By Robert A. Crump for ANP)—That Negroes might at long last get a chance to work as skilled artisans in General Motors plants on jobs heretofore denied them loomed over the past week as General Motors corporation sent letters and questionnaires to its 160,000 automotive employes telling there is a crying need for many skilled laborers on defense production in its plants amounting to $750,000,000.

The letter implies that skilled men within the plants will be given preference before more men are hired. The letter says in part: "Every possible facility of the corporation that is needed must be used—buildings, tools, machines, etc. But the greater importance is the 'know how' of the trained personnel available for responsible positions. General Motors is fortunate in having so large a group of men with this practical training.

MAY 30 1941

"In order that we may have the complete facts as to men qualified and available for special work we are giving you an opportunity of filling out the attached questionnaire."

The questionnaire, which makes no designation as to race lists a great number of skilled jobs. Just how many colored men within the plants will be able ot qualify for some of these jobs is, of course, not known, but the significant thing is that if the barriers are being let down it may offer a chance to those who are prepared for special work to break through when the corporation brings in skilled men from the outside.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Be Prepared for the Job

MAR 2 1 1941

Any man in this country can see with half an eye that this Negro neighbor wants work, must have work and will strive with might and main to get work. Only by being self-sustaining can anybody in the United States get respect and be at peace within. For that reason among thoughts that should cross the minds of white worker and employer alike should be opportunity for Negroes to have a part of the new work.

When unemployment prevailed, citizens of color let themselves be left idle without getting angry about it. But today is another story. The fires of industry are blazing. Men by the thousands are called to the machines. There is grave need for defense production. For Negroes to be refused under these new conditions is intolerable.

But Negroes are being refused work! A condition, not a theory, confronts them. Discussion therefore must be practical, not academic. For that reason we put down some "must" requirements which Negroes should meet, and meet now in order to be in a position to demand their rights.

First of all they must treat employment as opportunity for them—if they qualify. No wishful thinking gets a job. Apply and keep applying, and prepare while you wait. MAR 2 1 1941

Second: since efficiency is what you know and what you do, and not what color you have, the unemployed must be ready to meet the employer's test with deeds, and not with excuses that he would do better if only race and color had not handicapped him. If there is to be no differential in opportunity and pay for workers because they are black, then there must be no different service offered by those black workers.

Third: Skill and knowledge are gotten either through training or experience or both. Argument and complaint are no substitute for deeds. If shops are closed to Negro apprentices, then black workers must find another route by which to qualify, the schools for instance. For years night schools have been in operation in cities, to which Negroes could go. Today when work multiplies, those who showed enough enterprise to get what training schools gave are the ones who have the strong position on which they can stand and demand whatever other training they lack. Those who refused to use the one talent available for them are "unprofitable servants to be cast into outer darkness." It is cheap and cowardly for Negroes to open and close their bid for work with complaint. Other men have made bricks without straw and so can they.

Fourth: Negroes must make good. The eyes of unbelief are on them. Prejudice lays in wait to hamstring them. They find it hard to get opportunity, the best reason in the world why they should fight harder to keep it. That so many Negroes are found in positions of responsibility, is proof that color hobbles but does not kill.

Washington, D. C. Post
August 11, 1941

Job Placements Of Negroes Rise 47% in 5 Months

A 47 per cent increase in the placement of Negro workers through State emplyoment offices during the first five months of 1941, as compared with the similar period last year was reported yesterday by Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

Placement of Negroes totaled 414,595 in the five months, which was 20 per cent of all placements made by the State offices, McNutt said.

The reports indicated, he added that Negro placements "now appear to be increasing somewhat faster than that of other workers, in contrast with the trend heretofore." From April to May placements of Negroes increased 15 per cent, whereas such job finding for other persons was up only 12 per cent.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WAITERS IRKED BY R.R. BED, BOARD FEES

APR 20 1941

Formerly Part Of Compensation

APR 20 1941

NEW YORK. —(ANP)—Dining car waiters are most annoyingly, if not bitterly, experiencing what happens when any legislature undertakes to fix wages by law.

On March 1, the minimum wage of railroad employes was grounded at 36 cents an hour as provided in the Fair Labor Standards act, one of the pet legislative and social welfare projects of Sen. Wagner of New York. Among dining car employes it affects waiters only. In enacting the law, however, congress also authorized the railroads to deduct reasonable cost of board supplied employes at work and for lodging offered at the other ends of their runs from cash wages. Rail magnates, thus given their first break by legislation in a long, long time, are using it to the limit. In some, if not most instances, it is reported that board and lodging costs are equalling the difference between wages before March 1 and since. APR 20 1941

Part of Compensation

From time immemorial board has been considered as part compensation in addition to cash wages of all dining car employes, also sleeping accommodation en route, or away from home; and it is altogether doubtful that the rail magnates had ever dreamed of this gratuity being dropped into their laps by an act of congress.

In the case of the waiters, the law is held a discriminating piece of class legislation, in that it authorizes the railroads to charge none but them for food and sleeping heretofore furnished on duty or in connection with duty movements. All but the lowest paid are exempt. This fact was developed by President Rienzi Lemus of the Brotherhood of Dining Car Employes in the preliminary meeting held by the administrator of the division of wages and hours, charged with the duty of administering the law, at the department of labor in Washington, March 24.

Many of the waiters strongly incline to the conclusion that they would be better off had this law mercifully passed them by.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

War Dept. Lets Contract For Tuskegee Air Field

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The War Department announced Monday that contracts had been let for construction of an air base at Tuskegee, Ala., to cost $1,480,295 and to be for the exclusive use of the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

JUN 14 1941

Both the architectural work and the actual construction of the base will be done by Negroes. Hilyard R Robinson of Washington is the architect and McKissick & McKissick of Nashville ~~Tenn.~~ will do the building.

The officers and men, 33 pilots and 276 enlisted men for field maintenance, will be Negroes. The commanding officer will be Captain Benjamin O. Davis, jr.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

ASK CONGRESS TO APPOINT NEGRO G-MEN

Edgar G. Brown Seeks Approval of Members To Include Race

WASHINGTON. (ANP)—Continuing his fight for the inclusion of Negro members of the FBI, Edgar G. Brown appeared before the appropriation committee and the subcommittee on the department of justice and addressed that body in an effort to have Director Hoover include Negroes in his new batch of G-Men.

357

Queried about the proposition which shows only a few Negroes employed in the finger-print division, which is under the civil service. Brown pointed out that the selection of the G-men and investigators was entirely left to Mr. Hoover.

Part of the duty of the 700 men to be appointed will be to guard some 200 industrial plants throughout the country to prevent sabotage and instances of similar nature which occurred during the last war, and in the period prior to the entry of the United States into the war.

JUN 6 1941

Every large metropolitan area in the United States has recognized for years a distinct advantage inuring to their respective police departments, prosecuting officers, and other law-enforcing agencies, through the employment of Negro Americans as investigators, police officers and detectives," said Mr. Brown.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

What About Racial Differentials?

OUR CONTEMPORARY, the Journal of Labor, the official publication of organized labor in Atlanta, in its current issue carries an editorial entitled, "Southern Wage Differentials."

It might be well to quote briefly: 35g Gen.

"The practices of claiming and of allowing wage differentials in certain regions on the assumption that the cost of living or prevailing wage rates are lower in those regions have been losing ground for some time. When challenged and subjected to scientific analysis such claims usually do not stand up. The alleged differences in cost of living are usually found not to exist, or to be too slight to afford justification for the differentials claimed."

AUG 10 1941

Quoted is H. M. Douty, whose article, "Recovery and the Southern Differential" appeared in the Southern Economic Journal of January, 1938. In this treatise, Mr. Douty, after a thorough study asserts that "at least two conclusions can be reached: (1) There is no wide cost differential for equivalent standards of living between the South and the rest of the country, although a small favorable differential may exist. (2) Variations in living costs within the South are considerable."

The Journal of Labor reaches the conclusion that "it appears very clear that there is no sound reason why the wages paid for a certain amount of work and for a given amount of productivity in the South should be lower by any differential at all than the wages paid for the same work and productivity anywhere else in this country."

With this conclusion we are in full accord. But we would go one step further than does the Journal of Labor. We long have contended against not just sectional, but all differentials.

If no justification can be found for a disparity between the wages paid the Northern workmen as against those paid the Southern, it takes no long argument to conclude that there should be no differential between workmen of the same section, arbitrarily based on race.

And yet, against all arguments based on fairness and justice, in most Southern states Negro workmen, doing the same amount of work and with equal skill, are forced to accept less pay that the white worker.

AUG 10 1941

This is even a more pernicious differential than the sectional one about which the Journal of Labor so justly complains. The Supreme Court has already set the pattern for the elimination of these differentials when it ruled against the marked disparities in teachers' salaries throughout the South. If it is unconstitutional for teachers to be penalized economically solely because of color, surely the same principle would apply to other classes of work.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps at Gov't Hearing, Hit Low Pay Standards

Also Charge Terminals Employ 'Informers' Against Porters

35g

Negro red caps, who carry baggage in several eastern railroad terminals, protested yerterday that their 36-cent an hour pay rate was insufficient to maintain a proper living standard.

About fifty representative baggage porters from five eastern terminals revealed their bad working conditions at a hearing conducted by the Division of Wages and Hours of the U. S. Department of Labor at City Hall.

AUG 5 1941

George W. Davis, Negro red cap at South Boston Station, who said he had been a porter for 24 years, told the government officials the new system, whereby the passenger pays ten cents per bag handled, is "slightly better" than the tipping system because it gives the men a fixed income.

However, he said, the red cap is called upon to work harder in order to handle the amount of work demanded by the station masters.

The principal objections to the system, said Davis, are the responsibility placed on the red cap by the use of baggage checks, many of which are lost during the handling of baggage, the requirement that red caps turn in a certain number of cancelled checks during the day, and the amount of work the red cap must do during the eight-hour day in order to account for his quota of baggage checks.

AUG 5 1941

SPIES USED

Davis said that for several months last year "informers" were employed by the terminal to check on whether redcaps were charging ten cents a parcel and made daily reports to station masters of violations of station rules regarding tags.

He said in April, 1940, his superiors suggested that redcaps who were not handling the required number of bags each day be discharged.

While the general travelling public was not particularly receptive to the ten cents a bag redcaps charge put into effect at the country's larger terminals last year, one of the strongest protests against the plan was made by travelers at Boston's fashionable Back Bay station of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, a Boston Negro redcap testified.

James O. Canady, redcap for 12 years who was the third witness to be called to testify in the investigation said Bostonians bound for or leaving trains objected strongly to the payment of ten cents for each parcel handled by the redcap.

"Even the Cabots and the Lodges started carrying their own bags," Canady told Thomas Holland, Director of the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division.

AUG 5 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

More Pay For WPA Workers Planned

OCT 4 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—To meet the increased cost of living WPA officials in Washington have been considering ways and means to increase the wages of WPA workers throughout the nation, it was revealed this week.

35g

While it may require thirty or more days for any play to become effective the possibility of more money in the month'y pay envelope of these workers brings one ray of hope to hundreds of thousands on WPA rolls.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps Say 'There's No More Sugar Hill'

"There's no more sugar on Sugar Hill."

That's the way Samuel H. Boyd, Negro red cap at the Grand Central Station since 1905, described conditions of porters at the New York Central terminal at a U. S. Labor Department hearing yesterday at City Hall.

AUG 8 1941

"Sugar Hill," said Boyd, "is the name the red caps gave to the Vanderbilt Ave. entrance to Grand Central Station. There used to be a lot of sugar there, but there's none any more."

He told Thomas Holland, director of the research and statistics division of the Wages and Hours Division of the U. S. Department of Labor, that the porters did better under the old tipping system than under the 10 cent per bag checking system now in operation.

Under the latter system the red caps are paid 39 cents an hour by the railroadcompany.

AUG 8 1941

"So you were pretty happy under the tipping system?" queried Mr. Holland.

"No," replied the grey-haired porter. "I would not say I was happy. But I did do better under the tipping system.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

U. S. Senate Launches Sweeping Probe of Red Caps' Conditions

A sweeping Senatorial investigation into the methods of employment, and work and wage conditions of the nation's Red Caps opened in New York City Monday morning before Thomas Holland, of the Wages and Hours Division of the Department of Labor. The hearing, at which about forty witnesses will appear for the United Transport Service Employes of America and the railroads, is being conducted in the Council Chamber at City Hall and is scheduled for ten days.

The investigation, according to a Senate Resolution adopted in May, will delve into the employment practices of the railroads relating to Red Caps to determine whether the letter or spirit of the Wages and Hours Law, or any other Federal law, is being violated, and if existing legislature is adequate to correct such abuses or violations as are disclosed.

AUG 9 1941

Declaring that "we want a living wage without tips," John L. Yancey, international secretary- "In addition, we want to get rid of the evils of the present system brought about by spying and 'speed-up' by constant pressure of the railroads on the Red Caps for the mass handling of luggage."

Mr. Yancey said that the men were putting in eight hours for a maximum of $3.50 a day or $20 a week in the very best terminals and at average stations, they get as low as $1.40 a day in the Southern States. On the Western Roads, however, he said they were receiving the standard rate of $2.88 a day, plus tips, as the ten-cent per bag charge has not been instituted in Seattle, Portalnd, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, St. Paul and other terminals.

The case of the railroads, Mr. Yancey asserted, has been weakened by a recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which ruled that the ten-cent charge is subject to the regulations of the Commission, and that the Red Caps are a part of the transportation services of the carriers.

This ruling, it was said, requires the railroads to file a tariff request with the Interstate Commerce Commission not later than October 1, 1941. Under this request, the railroads will be forbidden to handle passengers' luggage free of charge. Every passenger who uses the services of a Red Cap will be compelled to pay an additional charge for such service which is regulated under Section 2 of the Interstate Commerce Commission Act.

The hearings being conducted under the Senate Resolution in New York will receive testimony of witnesses representing locals of the union in Buffalo, Toledo, Cleveland, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Newark, Boston, Providence, Hartford, New Haven, Portland, Me., Grand Central and Penn Station, New York.

Joseph Earle, Fred Clark, F. J. Fitzsimmons, Charles W. Gross, R. L. Baltimore, Cornelius Thompson, Elmer Traynham, Oswald Jordan, George W. Davis, Eugene Cummings, Edward A'Vant, Robert Coleman and William H. Brown. These witnesses will be followed and rebutted by witnesses for the railroads. L. L. Holstein, solicitor of the Department of Labor, is in charge of the examination of witnesses.

AUG 8 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Senate To Probe Red Caps' Case

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The U. S. Senate Saturday resolved to make another effort to settle the question of whether tips given redcaps at railroad stations and terminals are wages and whether the present system of paying these attendants comply with the federal Wage-Hour act.

There are some 6,000 redcaps in the country and their official labor organization is headed by Williard S. Towsend of Chicago as president. It is also estimated that there are nearly 900,000 other attendants—waiters, porters, maids, etc., mostly Negroes, whose income is mainly derived from tips. To all these workers, settlement of the controversy is of the utmost importance.

As a result of the senate action, the federal wage and hour division is holding a series of hearings, considering the question from every angle. Before thes wage-hour act was passed, redcaps derived their sole income from the tips given them by the traveling public. The terminals paid them no salary and redcaps were compelled to buy their uniforms, maintain them at their own expense.

MUST TELL OF TIPS

After the wage-hour act became effective, the termial companies required red caps to keep an account of all tips received, the companies to pay them the difference if the total received by the redcaps was less than the minimum wage guaranteed under the wage-hour act.

Since last April 14, the terminals have carried redcaps on the payroll, paid them in cash the minimum required by the law. On their part, the redcaps are reqiured to collect 10 cents a bag from each traveler and turn this in to the company.

Showing how the present system works to the advantage of the terminal companies, Washington redcaps declare that in the first five and one-half months of the plan they collected $94,677, but the company paid out in wages only $71,700, a gross profit to the company of $4,159 a month. The company, however, says the net profit was only $2,718 a month.

Some 15 suits were filed by redcaps in different cities, contending that tips cannot be considered part of wages paid. In a case filed in Dallas, the lower court found with the workers, and ordered the company to pay $77,753 in back pay and liquidated damages. The fifth circuit court of appeals reversed the decision, finding that tips constitute wages. The U. S. Supreme court refused to review the case.

PROBE 10-CENT PLAN

When the case was pending in the supreme court on petition for writ of cortiorari the solicitor general filed a brief in behalf of Wage-Hour Administrator Fleming, contending that the duty imposed upon the terminal company to pay wages to the redcaps was not discharged by permitting the redcaps to retain the tips they received from passengers. Tips are not the property of the terminal company, it said, but belong to the redcaps.

Present investigation is going into the 10-cent ticket plan as well. The senate resolution requires the administrator to report on whether present conditions and practices violate the law, whether such practices are susceptible of regulation under the law, and what legislation, if any, should be enacted to correct conditions.

AUG 10 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Company 'Pressure' Told By Red Caps At Hearing

Red caps employed in the Pennsylvania Station testified yesterday that although their hours are somewhat less, under the new 10 cents a bag checking system their tips have fallen off and they are subject to considerable "headaches." The witnesses appeared at a City Hall hearing on the grievances of the porters being conducted by Thomas Holland, director of the research and statistics division of the Wage and Hours Division of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The hearing, which has entered its third day, is one of a series being held throughout the country at the direction of the U. S. Senate into working conditions of the red caps, since they come under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

TIPS FALL OFF

Gene Howard, employed at the Penn Terminal for the last twelve years, said that tips had fallen off considerably, about 50 per cent of the passengers now giving only nickles in the mistaken belief that the porters retained the 10 cents per bag checking charge.

The porters now are paid a flat rate of 39 cents an hour by the railroad company.

"We must be courteous and give service but it causes many headaches," said Howard.

Although he said the new system caused greater grumbling by the passengers, he concluded the present system, with its faults, was an improvement on the old method.

Howard's testimony was supported by Julian Cox, another red cap at the terminal. He complained, however, that the company exerts "pressure" on red caps to increase their receipts.

Cox said he had been reprimanded several times by officials because he carried on an average of about 10 bags a day. His, he said, was a "poor position" at the entrance to the station on Seventh Ave., opposite the Pennsylvania Hotel, where there is stiff competition by public porters, licensed by the city, who operate in the vicinity outside the railroad station and resent red caps carrying bags of passengers arriving in taxis.

He testified that before the new system went into effect he averaged about $3 a day in tips, which is now a "good" average for a week. The priority system, based on length of service, prevents him from getting better assignments, which were also given to members of the red caps' baseball team before it was disbanded in 1931, Cox said.

AUG 7 1941

35g-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A FAIR AMERICAN WHITE MAN TELLS THE TRUTH ABOUT NEGRO AND LABOR

By A. N.FIELDS

CHICAGO, June 19—From a story appearing in the late Saturday Evening Chicago Daily News bearing a New York date line by Leland Stowe indications are that those who are definitely interested in real defense production are awakening to the fact that millions of Negroes must be integrated into the National Defense Program.

In his story, Mr. Stowe pointed out three important reasons. First: "The insatiable demand for machine tools and gauge, which alone provide the basis for ever-enlarging defense production; second, labor disputes and strikes that slow or paralyze whole sections of vital defense processes; third, near shortage or threatened shortage of raw material such as magnesium, aluminum or structural steel." These things are hampered, he said, by the shortage of man power. The answer to this shortage lies in two methods—the employment of women and Negroes.

TELL VERNA SPEAKS

This position is supported by Tell Verna, general manager of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. He takes the position that after considering all things the real limit of American production is the limit imposed by human beings. He argues that the white labor slack will be taken up by the end of the year 1942, consequently he is confident that Negroes must be given an opportunity to operate machines as well as sweep floors in defense plants.

In Hartford, Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland and other cities, Mr.Verna says: "We are asking chief executives of some of our largest airplane, automobile and similar defense industries if they are planning to employ women to speed up the nation's war efforts. Even in Buffalo, Burdette Wright, vice-president o Curtiss-Wright, says it is a debatable question as to when we shall need to put women on machines."

Coming to the case of the American Negro, Verna emphasizes the fact that the American Negro is particularly important and is likely to provoke a great deal of trouble if he is neglected too long in the question of employment, for Negroes have been discriminated against in the wholesale re-employment that has been going on for the past year, and they are perfectly aware of that fact.

MAKES INTERVIEW

Pursuing his discussion, Verna makes the following statement: "In recent weeks I have talked with Negroes in New York, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago. In each of these centers testimony is identical. Negroes say that their people overwhelmingly are indifferent to the war crisis. "Why should we go and fight when American whites never take any interest in us until the war comes along? Our boys don't want to go to the army. Even the army has a color-line. There are plenty of defense jobs, yes—for everybody but Negroes."

Mr. Verna then agrees with those he interviewed because he himself says, "when you consider that American Negro citizens amount to nearly one-tenth of the total population, it is clear that the Negroes' attitude toward the national crisis can become an exceedingly grave problem unless government leaders swiftly gain some comprehension of the real situation."

NEGRO LABOR AVOIDED

With respect to the integration of Negroes in defense work, Verna makes this statement:

"In our national defense program the Negro has been [illegible] in the background and that conduct imperils the nation. When we look for Negro labor in our defense industries with very rare exceptions he has been barred. Negroes have been barred from employment or training for employment under such excuses that Negroes are not qualified to handle machines, or that white and Negro labor should not be mixed. In any case and in general Negroes are being kept on relief while white workers are rapidly being absorbed — and this threatens to create a wartime social problem of unpredictable possibilities."

This evidence, unbiased and from the lips of an impartial white man should serve to reveal the conscience of the nation and bring to the attention of the President and his advisors that it may be necessary for them to use the same methods to enforce the spirit of Americanism that they use to steady the hand of the Communists in the California airplane plant strike.

JUN 21 1941

359

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

NEGROES MUST BE PREPARED

CARPENTERS or brick masons who would attempt to build a house without tools would need to have their heads examined, and the public would laugh at anyone who attempts to build a house without tools. The first thing that the public would say is that "You are not prepared to build a house". As we make this fight as a race group to integrate ourselves into American industry, we are met with this statement more than any other statement, "You are not prepared". This statement faces the Negro more than the statement that "We cannot employ you because you are a Negro". The statement that "We cannot employ you because you are a Negro" is being broken down and a number of industries that have never given employment to Negroes are swinging open wide their doors. But the doors are open wide only to those who are prepared. At this time we are urging upon members of our race group to get prepared. The streets are full of intelligent young men and young women who ought to be in some training school now preparing for the great task ahead. It is an awful thing for a few of us to make a bitter fight and then find that our group is not prepared to partake of what is given as a result of our efforts.

The parents, the ministers, social workers and other leaders in the community who have influence over our youth should not stop until every available boy who has any ability at all is in some training school We willl need the training long after the defense program is over. And unless we are trained as skilled laborers we will not be able to adjust ourselves to the new social order that will evolve from the present world crisis. The problem is perhaps more serious than a lot of us think So we urge upon you to stress preparation everywhere our boys and girls gather.

JUL 4 1941

359

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Civil Service Commission To Appoint Negro Executive

With the signing of the Ramspeck Civil Service Bill by President Roosevelt, Negroes became immediately active to protect the several thousand Negroes now employed by NYA, CCC and all other agencies brought under the Civil Service.

A committee headed by Edgar Brown called at the White House and at the offices of the Civil Service Commission. One of the objects of the committee was to secure the appointment of a Negro in an executive capacity on the Commission. This was accomplished. The name of the Negro has not been announced, though the committee felt no doubt that it would be in the near future. The Commission, according to the committee, intends to enforce the provision against discrimination on account of race. The Negro who will be appointed to a "high administrative position" is to "report and investigate cases of discrimination."

Some groups are said to have opposed this move at a previous hearing on the McAlpin case on the grounds that it would be a disservice to Negro workers to be "shunted off to another individual of their own race, whose hands might or might not be tied to prevent an effective job being done."

The present administration has followed the policy of appointing Negroes on all boards and agencies which handle many cases involving the welfare of Negroes.—The Southern Frontier.

MAY 29 1941

35g

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

First Training, Then Come Jobs

Negroes ought not say they are refused work until they have tried every possible avenue of employment, and tried it with the proof of their qualifications in hand. The so called "Negro jobs" have been much curtailed since the depression caused white employers to make places for their relatives and friends. At the same time Negroes failed to find new jobs or make them.

We live in an era when the state employment bureaus have come to be the dependence of the employables and the employers, but not equally for Negro workers for a reason which is partly their fault. We know that these bureau employes are human and give preference to those they know. Yet we have not sought to share those bureau jobs either for their own sake or as a means to an end.

There is something sadly wrong with a group that assumes it has no chance, and which is so anxious to be a true prophet that it neglects preparation and makes failure inevitable. A Negro has been chemist for a great railroad for more than a quarter of a century. A Negro woman operates a beauty shop in downtown Chicago. Yet the average young person among us concentrates on the latest "lick" or dance step, and offers race prejudice to account for not succeeding in this business of making a living. The beggar with the tin cup lets the world know how he lives. The Negro, using prejudice as a crutch, tries to hide his shame but it sticks out just the same.

The government has spoken, but Negroes are still hanging breathlessly on the swingeroo of a slip horn, instead of crowding into the training which is the stepping stone to opportunity. Parents who continue to feed young loafers, and children who do not honor parents by supporting their old age, are the logical product of thinking that failure is excusable. With defense creating new jobs on every side, and employers begging for workers, Negroes had better crowd into the vocational schools. The training is the door to work!

JUN 27 1941

359

92

JUN 27 1941

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Coca Cola Employed Negroes For Years

358

Firm Has Used Fair Policy Since Opening

When the current pop situation was brought to our attention by the hiring of a Negro boy on one of the trucks of a local firm, we immediately began a check-up of the other companies to see how democratic their systems of employment were as regards Negroes.

JUL 5 1941

It didn't take us long to discover that there was only one other firm in the community which employed Negroes, and that was the Coca-Cola Company, Broadway at C, owned and managed by J. N. Jarrett, a quiet, genial and proven gentleman.

When the editor visited the beautiful modern plant for an interview with its owner, we soon discovered that there was not one Negro on the payroll, but five. In fact, the entire personnel of the plant, some one is colored. That means that all the handling of the pop from sorting bottles, bottling, and loaded trucks is done by members of the race. All the truck drivers are of the other group, but we consider that fair enough when we realize that those five employees receive $3.30 per day each, and on the basis of a five-day week, would net a return of $990 to black hands.

Is that fair? We feel most happy in pointing this firm out as an ideal one with regards to employment, and the good part about it, no pressure groups brought about this situation, but rather it came from an appreciative spirit of the owner.

JUL 5 1941

Ever since Jarrett has owned the Coca-Cola franchise in this area he has employed Negroes and made no fanfare about it. Many times he had to defend his policy against the attacks of members of his race, but he has always maintained that "this is my business and so long as it is, I shall run it as I see fit. These men are all excellent workers and have been with me for years. No, I will not discharge a single one of them." In our opinion that's the best practical speech that could ever be uttered in democracy's behalf.

The five persons now earning their "daily" in the Coca-Cola plant are as follows: Ed Visor, Joe Williams, Luther Gross, William Kayhill and S. Isham. Visor has been in the company's employ for 22 years, while Isham has served for nine years. The others have enjoyed a tenure of 13 and 14 years each. So it is easy to gather that they have been gainfully employed for many years.

This piece was secured through the initiative of the reporter and should not be construed as advertising for the company mentioned. However, we felt that while bouquets were being tossed around, this firm should certainly receive one.

The next time you are near C and Broadway, drop in and have a look for yourself. You will be most welcome.

JUL 5 1941

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

EMPLOYMENT RATE IS UP TEN PER CENT

76,000 Colored Says Security Agency in Report

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt this week announced that more than 76,000 Negro workers found jobs in January through the nation-wide chain of State employment offices- coordinated by the United States Employment Service. According to Mr. McNutt, Negro placements for January accounted for 21.1 per cent of all the jobs filled by the State Employment Service—an increase of more than 10 per cent over December, 1940.

JUN 6 1941

"The expansion of defense industries is undoubtedly responsible in large part for the increased demand for Negro workers," Mr. McNutt said. Indicative of the trend toward greater job opportunities for Negroes is the fact that in January Negro male workers—placed in jobs—outnumbered female workers by more than 10,000. Unusually, placements of women predominate in many States because of the number employed in domestic service.

Defense Openings

In some instances—according to statistics gathered by the Bureau of Employment Security the increase in the placement of Negro male workers showed a growing demand for such labor in defense production. In other instances, Negro industiral workers are filling jobs made vacant as a result of the movement of other workers to defense industries.

More jobs were available for male than for female workers in New Hampshire, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas. In Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Louisiana, more than 50 per cent of all the placements in January were of Negro workers.

Calling attention to specific examples of job opportunities arising out of national defense, Paul V. McNutt pointed out that in the shipbuilding industry on the Middle Atlantic Seaboard, Negro workers are being employed in many plants as bolters, riveters, heaters, catchers, wood caulkers, acetylene burner operators, riggers, and machinists. Many of these occupants are those on which Negro workers were so successfully employed in 1917 and 1918.

JUN 6 1941

Work at Camps

In Louisiana, according to the Louisiana State Employment Service many unskilled and some skilled Negro workers have been placed on jobs constructing cantonments. And in Nashville, Tenn., of more than 200 Negro moulders registered a year ago with the Nashville State employment office, almost all have been placed in jobs.

"As the national defense program continues, increasing opportunities can be expected for Negro workers," Mr. McNutt said. Pointing out that the 1,500 full-time and 3,000 part-time State employment offices joined together by the United States Employment Service constituted the defense agency for matching men and jobs, the Federal Security Administrator urged those looking for work to use the facilities of their local office.

Stay at Home

He particularly warned workers against leaving their home in search of rumored jobs in other areas before first checking with their local State employment office to find out whether job oppotunities are available for workers with their particular qualifications.

JUN 6 1941

Each local State employment office he said, knows or can quickly find out how many and what kind of workers are needed in other localities. It can refer workers to jobs in any part of the country where there is a need for people with their qualifications. "Check with your local State employment office before you travel," he said, "and you will save yourself needless waste of time and money, as well as probable failure to land the desired job."

—Philadelphia Tribune.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

RED CAPS WIN FOUR-YEAR- OLD SECURITY FIGHT

359

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Interstate Commerce Commission made it clear this week when it ruled in the case of Stopher versus Cincinnat Union Terminal Railway Company that the Red Caps were a definite part of the railway transportation service and as such were entitled to the full protection of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

This decision ended the four-year-old fight of the Red Caps for complete integration of the Red Cap into American transportation service

---

Washington, D. C. Post
August 11, 1941

Jobs for Negroes Are Increasing, U. S. Service Finds

Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt announced yesterday that placement of Negro workers by the District employment office was 52 per cent higher from January to May of this year than in the corresponding period last year.

Reports to the administrator by the Social Security Board indicate that placement of Negroes is increasing somewhat faster than that of other workers, in contrast to the trend heretofore.

For Maryland, the increase this year over last was 85 per cent and in Virginia it was 87 per cent.

35g-1941

GENERAL

New York Times
New York, N. Y

RED CAPS SUE ON WAGES

Seek $1,600,000 From Railways Under Wage and Hour Law

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JAN 21 1941

CHICAGO, Jan. 20—Trial of a suit to collect $1,600,000 alleged to be due members of the International Brotherhood of Red Caps was begun today in Federal Court before Judge Philip L. Sullivan. Defendants are the Chicago, Milwaukee, & St. Paul; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Santa Fé; Chicago, Western & Indiana; Illinois Central; Chicago & North Western; Pennsylvania, and New York Central.

Leon Despres, for the Brotherhood, told the court the claim represented wages due 1,068 porters and handlers under the Wages and Hour Law from October, 1938, when it went into effect, until June 1, 1940.

The railroads, he said, told the Red Caps to report the weekly total of tips and if these did not amount to the minimum, the railroad would make up the difference. In order to hold their jobs, he asserted, many Red Caps reported more in tips than they had received.

Railway counsel denied coercion and said the Red Caps actually received more in many cases than the required minimum wages.

LABOR

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

NEGRO WORKERS HESITATE TO TRUST EITHER EMPLOYER OR FRIENDLY WHITE WORKERS

FEB 1 1941

(Continued From Last Week)

FEB 1 1941

NEGRO workers have been reluctant to join the U.A.W. In the first place it is the same old problem of the Negro being thankful for an opportunity to work. Certainly this is a consideration which can not be over-emphasized or dismissed by any one familiar with the problem.

The Negro finds it difficult to obtain employment and when he does he is hesitant to jeopardize it in any way. Likewise, the Negro, coming from the semi-feudalistic milieu of the Deep South and being accustomed to the paternalistic attitude of the Southern plantation system, was susceptible to company propaganda and terror.

Mr. Cayton

From a negative point of view, the Negro was held back by two driving fears. As is the case of the organization of the steel industry, Negroes are more intimidated by company pressure than are white workers. The Ford Company has developed its espionage and "vigilante" system to a science. Under the able leadership of Harry Bennet, Ford's alleged minister of propaganda and the head of his Gestapo, every worker is under surveillance 24 hours of the day—or at least he thinks he is.

DISTRUST OF WHITES

BRUTAL beating of individuals inside and outside of the plant by this rumored army of 3,000 ex-pugilists, ex-football players and ex-convicts has done its share to intimidate Negroes.

The second great fear arises out of the Negro's distrust of his white co-workers. Negroes know full well that their being hired was usually resented by these white workers. Many have had experiences in other unions where Negroes were mistreated or barred from membership.

Negroes, therefore, fear (and quite correctly), the possibility that if the plant is organized, Ford will find no further use for them as "strike insurance" and the union will then be glad of an opportunity to weed them out. These two fears, combined with the antagonism which their "leaders" have toward all unions, tend to make Negroes the most difficult to organize of all groups in the plant.

It is our opinion that they will constitute Ford's "hole card" if he is forced to allow an election to vote on the question of the union, under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board.

FACE DILEMMA

THE Negro is in a particularly precarious and desperate position. His fear of unions and of his white co-workers is understandable and justifiable in terms of his labor experiences—he has no guarantee that they will act differently in the future.

Courier

If he remains loyal to the Ford Company he hopes that more Negroes will be hired and that those already in the plant will be given advancements.

On the other hand, if Negro workers as a group refuse to cooperate with the union, they will again stigmatize themselves as scabs.

Pittsburgh Pa.

The C.I.O. has made a desperate effort to break down color barriers and it presents the greatest hope for Negro laborers since the Knights of Labor. To spurn this advance on the part of organized labor would set a dangerous precedent and would give confirmation to the beliefs of many union members and officials that Negroes are unorganizable, even when the union is willing to accept them as equals and pledges to treat them fairly in the future.

CAN'T LAY BLAME

IT IS of little virtue in a situation such as this to attempt to lay blame. We cannot, however, resist the temptation to point out to white workers that this situation is one of their own making. The position of these white workers who have demonstrated on many occasions their prejudices to all Negroes reminds us a great deal of the position of England in the present World War.

English people have for many years denied to India the right of self-government. They have been willing to do everything for India except get off of the Indians' backs. Now it is not amazing that India is luke-warm in her attitude toward a war to save democracy.

The British have also mistreated Ireland for decades. We are now witnessing the amazing spectacle where an integral part of not only the British Empire, but the British Isles themselves have declared themselves neutral and have even refused England the right to their ports.

England has stated that this is a holy war to preserve democracy and that all internal problems should be held in abeyance until after fascism has been beaten.

Ireland feels that the English brand of democracy, as characterized by their imperialistic policy, has never been to their liking. Perhaps Ireland and India are cutting their own throats by refusing to fight against the threat of Nazi dictatorship of the world.

Certainly Negro workers in the Ford plant will suffer greatly, both as workers and as Negroes, in the long run if they are instrumental in defeating unionism in Ford's plants. However, in both instances the prejudices of white men have "come home to roost."

ARE PROMISES SECURE

THE larger question to be determined is whether people will prefer to retain their social and racial prejudices or to retain their democratic forms of government. And, granted that the dominant groups are willing to relax stupid social prejudices, will the people who have been exploited, segregated and abused in the past, accept the promises of the groups in power and join in a common fight to protect a common front?

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Wages and Hours Law Upheld

FEB 9 - 1941

The Stone opinions upheld in all phases the constitutionality of the Wages and Hours Law of 1938, which puts curbs on child labor, as did the 1918 act, and regulates the working conditions of millions of adults as well. With the Stone view no justice disagreed. Last week only eight justices sat on the bench, for a successor to Justice James C. McReynolds, who retired on Feb. 1, has yet to be named. Justice McReynolds voted with the majority in the child labor case of 1918.

Although unanimous on the Wages and Hours Law, the court split on another decision read at the same session. Two members, Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes and Justice Owen J. Roberts, disagreed with a majority which ruled that the Sherman Anti-trust Act, with its prohibitions against conspiracies in restraint of trade, does not apply to jurisdictional disputes between labor unions. The majority held that labor groups could not be prosecuted for boycotts and picketing growing out of inter-union rivalries.

FEB 9 - 1941

The Sherman Act, ever since its passage in 1890, has been the basis of many suits against labor. It was invoked against railroad workers in the great Pullman strike of 1894. In recent years both Congress and the courts have tended to limit the Sherman Act in its application to unions.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Unemployment Far Greater Among Negro Youth than Among Whites

MAR 1 1941

Unemployment is proportionately greater among Negro youth than among white youth in the cities, a new WPA pamphlet states as one of its conclusions regarding the job opportunities of urban youth.

The publication, "Thirty Thousand Urban Youth," is the sixth in a non-technical series on social problems issued by the WPA.

The study on which it was based disclosed that 40 of every 100 Negro youth in the labor market of seven representative cities were without jobs as compared to 18 of every 100 white youth.

"Where there was a lack of full-time employment, Negro youth were hardest hit," Mr. Payne writes. "In Birmingham, although 70 per cent of the white youth had full-time private employment, only 43 per cent of the Negro youth had full-time jobs. This racial disparity was even greater in St. Louis, where 77 per cent of the white youth in the labor market and only 39 per cent of the Negro youth had full-time work."

MAR 1 1941

The all-important matter of income is discussed in the current WPA study on urban youth. It is shown that among the young people living in the seven cities surveyed, Negroes were employed full-time with average weekly earnings of $9.70. The average for white youths stood at $17.90.

"Part of these differences in unemployment by occupation of fathers is a race difference due to the concentration of Negro fathers in the lower occupational brackets," Mr. Payne explains in his report.

"Yet, in cities where race was no factor, the children of unskilled fathers had more unemployment than those of semi-skilled workers; the latter had more unemployment than the children of skilled workers, and so on. Differences in unemployment were not so great in these cities as in southern cities, but they were substantial nevertheless."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Stage Dramas Show Status Of Race Workers

Pictures of Negroes As Fools and Buffoons In Theater Replaced By Serious Expose of His Problems In New, Successful Plays.

By HORACE R. CAYTON
Author, Labor Expert

That the theatre has stereotyped the Negro laborer as a buffoon and an incompetent fool, and has almost entirely neglected to recognize that there is a race problem in this country, is an understatement.l A few instances wil substantiate the thesis that the theater, and other agencies of mass impression which create our public opinion, are daily substantiating the myth that Negroes are incompetent workers. Amos and Andy for years have held Negroes up as stupid, dishonest and incompetent workers who wished to become "big shot business men" and "society leaders." Rochester, with Jack Benny, is hilarious as a comedian but hardly an advertisement for the employment of Negroes as domestic servants. In most motion pictures and theatrical productions the Negro appears only as a maid or butler to supply comedy relief.

Mr. Cayton

There has been no serious attempt by motion pictures to address themselves to any of the problems which face Negroes in this country. The only more or less recent picture dealing with the Negro was "Imitation of Life," which took up that titulating subject of the "high yellow" girl who wanted to be white.

ONLY WORK WHEN FORCED

JAN 4 - 1941

A Frenchman in Paris, unbiased by any color prejudice, tried to describe to me the character, role and position of Negroes in the United States as he had learned about them from American motion pictures.

According to this naive but sincere person, Negroes were a child like race who were afraid of ghosts and who never worked except as servants and then only when forced by circumstances. Furthermore there was no Negro problem as Negroes were happy, contented and did not wish to change their position—they loved white folks and white folks loved them.

Not only does this type of vicious propaganda influence the notion which white people have of Negroes, but also tends to determine what Negroes think of themselves. It is inevitable that when they are constantly reminded on the stage, screen and radio that they occupy an inferior place in this social system they begin to believe in their own inferiority.

ENJOY PICTURES OF SELVES

Many are insensitive to the implications of these characterizations or are so convinced of their inferior role that they actually enjoy and delight in seeing themselves pictured as clowns, chicken thieves, slaves, gamblers, convicts, happy inferiors, content to remain servants. Negroes in America are inescapably a part of the tradition which maintains the myth of race inferiority and growing up in this system of race relations they have become "saturated in a tradition of their own incompetence."

It is with great satisfaction that one observes then the breaking of this tradition by the "left wing" and labor theater. Two cases in point are the recent musical hits "Meet the People" and the "New Pins and Needles." "Meet the People" is a "left wing" review which originated a year ago in Los Angeles and has trekked across the country to enjoy a successful opening on Broadway. The young actors who thought that working for the movies was not the highest form of art life take the radio, the United States Senate and Hollywood for an awful "ride." But they are in dead earnest when they speak, or even joke, about the Bill of Rights, the right of labor to organize, the Oakies and the position of Negroes. Some of the most caustic criticism of the "Ole South" in which two performers, dressed as a couple of straw-hatted vaudevillians of two decades back, sing of lynching, peonage, the poll tax and back-door miscegenation.

I saw the show in San Francisco and Chicago and both times the white audience stiffened, laughed self-consciously and glanced at their neighbors. This incidentally is the only song which got a rise from John L. Lewis when he saw the show on the coast., John Hammond of Columbia Recording Corporation told me that he is going to record the song. If he does it will be as great a service to Negro laborers as were his recent recordings of "Chain Gang Work Songs" in interpreting to the general public a Negro different from the stereotyped buffoon.

JAN 4 - 1941

"PINS AND NEEDLES" GOES EVEN FURTHER

The new "Pins and Needles" goes even further than "Meet the People." As the players are all active members of the International Ladies Garment Workers, which has many Negro members, this edition of the show has a Negro as a featured performer. The skits are pointed in their criticism of racial prejudice, the failure of the administration to pass the Anti-lynch law, the necessity for Negroes and whites to cooperate in unions and in protecting their civil rights. Dorothy Harrison, a young and talented Negro girl, sings two numbers and dances with the chorus. In one number "History Eight to the Bar," Miss Harrison appears as a school teacher while the rest of the cast sit as her pupils in a history class. The burden of the scene is for them not "to sit on their status quo" while being relieved of their rights to organize into unions.

It is gratifying to see in one season two hit musical reviews which do not have a clogging clown or a mammy, but do state some hard bitter, truths about race relations. It is even more gratifying to know that Langston Hughes is at present working on a Negro review which will be backed by the backers of "Meet the People."

"Meet the People" and "Pins and Needles" have shown that shows with "social significance" can pay. Let us hope that the new play by Hughes will be as hard hitting as was that Negro labor classic "Stevedore" and as brilliant and fast moving as "Meet the People" and "Pins and Needles." The play is needed for the theater is one of the cultural fronts which must be mobilized to help break the myth of the comic shiftless Negro laborer.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes in South Get $7 a Week, Women Get $4

MAR 3 1941

Charleston, S. C.
Workers Correspondence Dept:

There are about 4,000 people working in the Navy Yards here. The population of Charleston is about 90,000 and half of them are not working. There is some work down at the docks, but even over there the people aren't working half the time. If a person does get an odd job here and there the average salary of Negro workers is about $7.00 to $9.00 a week. It's pretty hard to live on that amount of money with the food prices going higher every day.

MAR 3 1941

The average colored woman is making only four dollars a week. The average colored teacher gets $50.00 a month while the white teacher gets about $110.00 a month. This is the way the "New Deal" works with the two races in South Carolina. They try to make us hate each other. The colored people want to send their children to school, but the lack of clothing keeps them back. We are the last ones hired. on a job, and the first ones fired,

---

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Six Million Jobs By 1942

MAR 1 1941

According to a report by Dr. Lloyd G. Reynolds, head of the Twentieth Century Fund, following a survey our National Defense program will provide 6,000,000 new jobs between now and the fall of 1942. In fact, Dr. Reynolds is afraid that there will be more jobs than men to fill them.

Judging from past experience, Negroes are going to be the last hired even after production reaches its peak. Just this past week, Vultee Aircraft Corp. of Tennessee told the N.A.A.C.P. that "We do not now believe it advisable to include Colored people in minor capacities such as porters and cleaners." This, in spite of the fact that there are thousands of skilled and semi-skilled Negro workers eager to get into the various industrial plants, but are consistently barred because of their color. The net result of this program leaves . . .

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Millions of Negroes Idle

Interesting, indeed, is the idea advanced by Miss Clare Boothe, but more interesting is the fact it has received approval, at least favorable consideration by the daily press. The playwright and author believes that after the war we ought to welcome here a million English a year instead of keeping up the immigration barriers. She recommends, according to reports, that this be kept up for 10 years, thus bringing in ten million people in as many years.

MAR 1 1941

Negroes have lost jobs right and left since the present war began and refugees have begun flooding the country. Ever so often it is brought to our attention that a maid, cook, butler or an engineer has been fired to make room for a refugee.

In view of all these conditions, plans and propositions, we wish to reiterate our warning in these columns last week that Negroes must keep circumspect and prepare themselves for "things to come." Therefore, there might be something to the suggestion of the National Negro Council For a permanent:

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Labor Dispute Decision Airing May Have Far Reaching Effect

35g
Gen

Both employer and labor circles are awaiting with keen interest the Labor Arbitration radio program over WMCA Thursday evening, August 7, from 8 to 9 o'clock for the setlement of what is generally considered one of the most important labor questions ever to arise on the popular broadcast.

The question confronting Samuel R. Zack, director of the broadcast, and his two guest judges is, "Can an employer break a written contract with an employee who has broken a verbal one?" It arose from a dispute between a girl working in a local store and her boss.

The employee, who will be represented by Attorney Hope R. Stevens, is contesting an attempt of her employer to abrogate a year's contract. Performing all the duties in a one-person business place, the girl is on a year's contract, her second.

According to her employer, who will be represented on the broadcast dispute by Attorney Eustace Dench, the girl's salary was garnisheed by a "time-payment" jeweler a few months after she first started working, the adjustment of which occasioned the employer considerable trouble.

At the expiration of the first year, the employer charges, he expressed his willingness to renew the contract with the girl for a second year but insisted upon and received in return the girl's promise that she would not contract any obligations which might bring a recurrence of the garnishee incident.

A few months after the signing of the second contract, however, the same jeweler secured a second garnishee on the employee's salary. Despite the girl's insistence that this action was taken on the same obligation as had motivated the earlier incident and that she had not contracted a new debt, the employer feels that she has not kept her word with him and seeks to discharge her.

Although having no official Government foundation, decisions of the Labor Arbitration program, by which both parties concerned are bound beforehand to abide, are generally viewed as precedent-making in the formulation of current labor philosophy. Among the guest arbitrators who have appeared in the past with Zack on the program has been Dr. P. M. H. Savory.

AUG 9 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps Call Strike Vote for Pay Increase

35g

Transport Service Employes Union Executive Board Authorizes Vote; 3,500 Station Workers to Act on 30 Cent Boost

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—The General Executive Board of the United Transport Service Employes of America, has unanimously voted the authorization of a strike vote among the nation's red caps as its next move to gain the union's demands upon the railroads for a 30 cents hourly wage increase for approximately 3,500 station porters and red caps.

This unprecedented move in the ranks of station porters, red caps and ushers was taken after a series of conferences with railroad managements over the demands for the substantial wage increase to meet the rising costs of living. The railroads flatly rejected these demands which resulted in the presentation of the strike vote proposal to the membership.

The strike action of the union parallels the recent move made by the five operating and fourteen non-operating railroad labor organizations whose demands for wage increases met with a similar fate before railroad management. The operating and non-operating brotherhoods broke off negotiations last week and presented the strike vote issue to approximately 1,500,000 railroad employes.

AUG 12 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

BODY TO WEIGH MERITS OF R.R. WAGE SYSTEM

Question Of Gratuities As Salary Is Still Issue In Balance

35g

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—The U. S. Senate last week resolved to make another effort to settle the question of whether tips given redcaps at railroad stations and terminals are wages and whether the present system of paying these attendants complies with the federal Wage-Hour act.

There are some 6,000 redcaps in the country and their official labor organization is headed by Willard S. Townsend of Chicago. It is also estimated that there are nearly 900,000 other attendants—waiters, porters, maids, etc., mostly Negroes, whose income is mainly derived from tips. To all these workers, settlement of the controversy is of the utmost importance.

As a result of the senate action, the federal wage adn hour division is holding a series of hearings, considering the question from every angle. Before the wage-hour act was passed, redcaps derived their sole income from the tips given them by the traveling public.

The terminals paid them no salary and redcaps were compelled to buy their own uniforms, maintain them at their own expense.

After the wage-hour act became effective, the terminal companies required redcaps to keep an account of all tips received, the companies to pay them the difference if the total received by the redcaps was less than the minimum wage guaranteed under the wage-hour act.

Since last April 14, the terminals have carried redcaps on the payroll, paid them in cash the minimum required by the law. On their part, the redcaps are required to collect 10 cents a bag from each traveler and turn this in to the company.

Showing how the present system works to the advantage of the terminal companies, Washington redcaps declare that in the first five and one-half months of the plan they collected $94,677, but the company paid out in wages only $71,700, a gross profit to the company of $4,159 a month. The company, however, says the net profit was only $2,718 a month.

Some 15 suits were filed by redcaps in different cities, contending that tips cannot be considered part of wages paid. In a case filed in Dallas, the lower court found with the workers, and ordered the company to pay $77,753 in back pay and liquidated damages.

The fifth circuit court of appeals reversed the dicision, finding that tips constituted wages. The U. S. Supreme court refused to review the case.

When the case was pending in the supreme court on petition for writ of certiorari the solicitor general filed a brief in behalf of Wage-Hour Administrator Fleming, contending that the duty imposed upon the terminal company to pay wages to the redcaps was not discharged by permitting the redcaps to retain the tips they received from passengers.

Tips are not the property of the terminal company, it said, but belong to the redcaps.

Present investigation is going into the 10-ccnt-ticket plan as well. The senate resolution requires the administrator to report on whether present conditions and practices violate the law, whether such practices are susceptible of regulation under the law, and what legislation, if any, should be enacted to correct conditions.

AUG 16 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Red Caps Order Strike Vote As Next Move

Seek To Force Railroads Pay 30 Cents Wage

35g

CHICAGO (ANP) — President Willard Townsend and the executive union of the United Transport Service Employes of America,, as the "Red Caps" union is called decided this week to authorize a strike call among the nation's red caps as its next move in the fight to force the railroads to pay an hourly wage of 30c per hour. This move came after efforts on the part of the union in a series of conferences with railroad officials over a wage increase met with refusal.

The threatened strike vote comes at the same time the railroad brotherhood, white, and non-operating railroad unions, are also mulling a strike vote to force wage demands The federal court decided some time ago that the red caps were employes of the railroads, a contention which they sought to evade for a long time.

According to the railroad labor act, when a strike vote is taken among railroad employes, the National Meditation board may offer its services to mediate the issues involved. Apparently this is what the red cap union wants. Such a move would be additional recognition of that fact that red caps are a necessary and actual part of the railroad personnel.

AUG 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Labor Dispute Decision Airing May Have Far Reaching Effect

35g
Gen

AUG 9 1941

Both employer and labor circles are awaiting with keen interest the Labor Arbitration radio program over WMCA Thursday evening, August 7, from 8 to 9 o'clock for the setlement of what is generally considered one of the most important labor questions ever to arise on the popular broadcast.

The question confronting Samuel R. Zack, director of the broadcast, and his two guest judges is, "Can an employer break a written contract with an employee who has broken a verbal one?" It arose from a dispute between a girl working in a local store and her boss.

The employee, who will be represented by Attorney Hope R. Stevens, is contesting an attempt of her employer to abrogate a year's contract. Performing all the duties in a one-person business place, the girl is on a year's contract, her second.

According to her employer, who will be represented on the broadcast dispute by Attorney Eustace Dench, the girl's salary was garnisheed by a "time-payment" jeweler a few months after she first started working, the adjustment of which occasioned the employer considerable trouble.

At the expiration of the first year, the employer charges, he expressed his willingness to renew the contract with the girl for a second year but insisted upon and received in return the girl's promise that she would not contract any obligations which might bring a recurrence of the garnishee incident.

A few months after the signing of the second contract, however, the same jeweler secured a second garnishee on the employee's salary. Despite the girl's insistence that this action was taken on the same obligation as had motivated the earlier incident and that she had not contracted a new debt, the employer feels that she has not kept her word with him and seeks to discharge her.

Although having no official Government foundation, decisions of the Labor Arbitration program, by which both parties concerned are bound beforehand to abide, are generally viewed as precedent-making in the formulation of current labor philosophy. Among the guest arbitrators who have appeared in the past with Zack on the program has been Dr. P. M. H. Savory.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps Call Strike Vote for Pay Increase

35g

Transport Service Employes Union Executive Board Authorizes Vote; 3,500 Station Workers to Act on 30 Cent Boost

(Special to the Daily Worker)

AUG 12 1941

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—The General Executive Board of the United Transport Service Employes of America, has unanimously voted the authorization of a strike vote among the nation's red caps as its next move to gain the union's demands upon the railroads for a 30 cents hourly wage increase for approximately 3,500 station porters and red caps.

This unprecedented move in the ranks of station porters, red caps and ushers was taken after a series of conferences with railroad managements over the demands for the substantial wage increase to meet the rising costs of living. The railroads flatly rejected these demands which resulted in the presentation of the strike vote proposal to the membership.

The strike action of the union parallels the recent move made by the five operating and fourteen non-operating railroad labor organizations whose demands for wage increases met with a similar fate before railroad management. The operating and non-operating brotherhoods broke off negotiations last week and presented the strike vote issue to approximately 1,500,000 railroad employes.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

BODY TO WEIGH MERITS OF R.R. WAGE SYSTEM

Question Of Gratuities As Salary Is Still Issue In Balance

35g

AUG 16 1941

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—The U. S. Senate last week resolved to make another effort to settle the question of whether tips given redcaps at railroad stations and terminals are wages and whether the present system of paying these attendants complies with the federal Wage-Hour act.

There are some 6,000 redcaps in the country and their official labor organization is headed by Willard S. Townsend of Chicago. It is also estimated that there are nearly 900,000 other attendants—waiters, porters, maids, etc., mostly Negroes, whose income is mainly derived from tips. To all these workers, settlement of the controversy is of the utmost importance.

As a result of the senate action, the federal wage adn hour division is holding a series of hearings, considering the question from every angle. Before the wage-hour act was passed, redcaps derived their sole income from the tips given them by the traveling public.

The terminals paid them no salary and redcaps were compelled to buy their own uniforms, maintain them at their own expense.

After the wage-hour act became effective, terminal companies required redcaps to keep an account of all tips received, the companies to pay them the difference if the total received by the redcaps was less than the minimum wage guaranteed under the wage-hour act.

Since last April 14, the terminals have carried redcaps on the payroll, paid them in cash the minimum required by the law. On their part, the redcaps are required to collect 10 cents a bag from each traveler and turn this in to the company.

Showing how the present system works to the advantage of the terminal companies, Washington redcaps declare that in the first five and one-half months of the plan they collected $94,677, but the company paid out in wages only $71,700, a gross profit to the company of $4,159 a month. The company, however, says the net profit was only $2,718 a month.

Some 15 suits were filed by redcaps in different cities, contending that tips cannot be considered part of wages paid. In a case filed in Dallas, the lower court found with the workers, and ordered the company to pay $77,753 in back pay and liquidated damages.

The fifth circuit court of appeals reversed the dicision, finding that tips constituted wages. The U. S. Supreme court refused to review the case.

When the case was pending in the supreme court on petition for writ of certiorari the solicitor general filed a brief in behalf of Wage-Hour Administrator Fleming, contending that the duty imposed upon the terminal company to pay wages to the redcaps was not discharged by permitting the redcaps to retain the tips they received from passengers.

Tips are not the property of the terminal company, it said, but belong to the redcaps.

Present investigation is going into the 10-cent-ticket plan as well. The senate resolution requires the administrator to report on whether present conditions and practices violate the law, whether such practices are susceptible of regulation under the law, and what legislation, if any, should be enacted to correct conditions.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Red Caps Order Strike Vote As Next Move

Seek To Force Railroads Pay 30 Cents Wage

35g

AUG 16 1941

CHICAGO (ANP) — President Willard Townsend and the executive union of the United Transport Service Employes of America,, as the "Red Caps" union is called decided this week to authorize a strike call among the nation's red caps as its next move in the fight to force the railroads to pay an hourly wage of 30c per hour. This move came after efforts on the part of the union in a series of conferences with railroad officials over a wage increase met with refusal.

The threatened strike vote comes at the same time the railroad brotherhood, white, and non-operating railroad unions, are also mulling a strike vote to force wage demands The federal court decided some time ago that the red caps were employes of the railroads, a contention which they sought to evade for a long time.

According to the railroad labor act, when a strike vote is taken among railroad employes, the National Meditation board may offer its services to mediate the issues involved. Apparently this is what the red cap union wants. Such a move would be additional recognition of that fact that red caps are a necessary and actual part of the railroad personnel.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Labor and Industry . . .

(359)

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

LABOR-SOUTH CIVIL WAR NOT WHITE FOLKS FIGHT. UNION NEGRO COOPERATION FOR DEMOCRACY

In the congress of the United States last week, the C.I.O. and the A.F.L. won another impressive victory in the long civil war between the South and the organized labor movement. The fight centered around a house vote on a conference report approving the revised Connally amendment to the Selective Service act. This amendment as passed by the senate and very slightly modified in conference would, in the opinion of Bill Green of the A.F.L., "impose a condition of involuntary servitude upon labor."

AUG 5 1941

Phil Murray [illegible]I.O. charged the legislation "is not intended to exercise any compulsion upon management, but only against labor." Thus the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. attained an effective degree of unity on a matter affecting their mutual interests.

After various representatives had been properly "buttonholed" by labor spokesmen, the house smashed the attack on the unions by a vote of 255 to 114. Republicans, Democrats voted against the measure.

When the results of the contest were announced, Rep. Martin Dies stated: "Now that the Republicans have gone over to the C.I.O., maybe I better start investigating 'em."

NOT JUST A WHITE FOLKS FIGHT

Too many Negroes, North and South, the struggle over the revised Connally amendment to the Selective Service act will seem like a "white folks" fight in which the darker brother has little interest. But as a matter of fact, the fight strikes at the very root of our political and economic problems in the South.

An analysis of the vote revealed that 72 of 78 representative from southern states having poll tax restrictions on the right to vote, were in favor of the legislation to place labor "in involuntary servitude." It is not mere coincidence that in the states which sent these men to congress, Negroes enjoy, as a matter of right, few of the privileges and immunities of American citizenship.

UNIONS AND NEGROES IN SAME BOAT

These men and the industrial, commercial, and plantation powers they represent are bitterly opposed to unions for the same reason they disfranchise Negro and poor white labor in the South. They want an almost absolute control over the labor force in their districts.

AUG 5 1941

These same [illegible] and the unions know that this control is safe so long as workers in these areas are not able to vote. Likewise every Negro in the South with the brain of an ant knows that the fight for civil liberties, better education, public sanitation, health facilities, housing, and the very security of life and property depend upon our winning the right to vote.

THE CHURCHILL-STALIN GET-TOGETHER

Our right to vote will come only when the American people with our help, insist upon equality of sufferage in the United States. The trade unions, particularly the C.I.O. are in the forefront of this fight. It should be no more difficult to make common cause with the C.I.O. and the A.F.L. than it was for a Tory government in England to make common cause with Communist Russia. We too are fighting for our

---

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Red Caps Say Schemes of Railroads Victimize Them

359

NEW YORK. — Spying, intimidation and fee-checking methods which actually cost them money were charged to various railroads by red caps testifying at Senate-authorized hearings on their wage and employment conditions here last week.

AUG 16 1941

More than a score of them recounted experiences indicating that their plight is worse under the dime-a-bag system by which most roads evade responsibility for payment of minimum wages under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Union Heads Present

The hearings were conducted in the city council chambers by Thomas Holland of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor. Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Workers, and John L. Yancey, secretary, directed the red caps' testimony.

Methods of the railroads' "spotters" were described by Julian Cox of the Penn Terminal, New York, who said they spy on red caps and accuse them of withholding parcel fees with accompanying threats against their jobs.

AUG 16 1941

More Threats Reported

When the total of fees reported during a day falls short of the minimum wage due them, red caps are called into the office and subjected to similar threats, witnesses testified.

George H. Randolph of the Pennsylvania Station, Baltimore, told of a meter system to register the number of parcels handled. Whenever a parcel is registered which the red cap does not take to its final destination — and hence does not collect for — he must make up the fee out of his pocket, Randolph said.

Likewise, he testified, they often find it expedient to ring up additional bags not actually handled and pay for them, in order that their total for the day will not run below standard.

Passengers Displeased

Passengers' displeasure with the system, it was charged, has had an unfavorable effect on the red caps' incomes. Many, it was said, carry their own bags in protest to the fee.

Other witnesses included:

James O. Canady, Boston; Robert Nichols, Roxbury, Mass.; Frank Fitzsimmons, Cleveland; Oswald Jordan, Portland, Me.; Joseph E. Earl, Buffalo, N.Y.; Fred Clark, Toledo, Ohio;

AUG 16 1941

Jean Howard, R. W. Ricks, Charles W. Gross, R. L. Baltimore, Cornelius Thompson, Elmer Trayham, George Davis, Eugene Cummings, Edward Avant, Robert Coleman and William H. Brown.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Labor And Industry

(359)

(By George F. McCray for ANP)

THE LABOR-SOUTH CIVIL WAR NOT A WHITE FOLKS FIGHT. UNION NEGRO CO-OPERATION FOR DEMOCRACY

In the congress of the United States last week, the C. I. O. and the A. F. L. won another impressive victory in the long civil war between the south and the organized labor movement. The fight centered around a house vote on a conference re[illegible]evised Connally amendment to the Selective Service act. This amendment as passed by the senate and very slightly modified in conference would, in the opinion of Bill Green of the A. F. L. "impose a condition of involuntary servitude upon labor."

AUG 25 1941

Phil Murray of C. I. O. charged the legislation "is not intended to exercise any compulsion upon management, but only against labor." Thus the A. F. L. and the C. I. O. attained an effective degree of unity on a matter affecting their mutual interests.

After various representatives had been properly "buttonholed" by labor spokesmen, the house smashed the attack on the unions by a vote of 255 to 114. Republicans, Democrats voted against the measure.

When the results of the contest were announced, Rep. Martin Dies stated: "Now that the Republicans have gone over to the C. I. O. maybe I better start investigating 'em."

NOT JUST A WHITE FOLKS FIGHT

To many Negroes, north and south, the struggle over the revised Connally amendment to the Selective Service act will seem like a "white folks" fight in which the darker brother has little interest. But as a matter of fact, the fight strikes at the very root of our political and economic problems in the south.

An analysis of the vote revealed that 72 of 78 representatives from southern states having poll tax restrictions on the right to vote, were in favor of the legislation to place labor "in involuntary servitude." It is not mere coincidence that in the states which sent these men to congress, Negroes enjoy, as a matter of right, few of the privileges and immunities of American citizenship.

UNIONS AND NEGROES IN SAME BOAT

These men and the industrial, commercial, and plantation powers they represent are bitterly opposed to unions for the same reason they disfranchise Negro and poor white labor in the south. They want an almost absolute control over the labor force in their districts.

AUG 25 1941

These same men and the unions know that this control is safe so long as workers in these areas are not able to vote. Likewise every N[illegible] the south with the brain of an ant knows that the fight for civil liberties, better education, public sanitation, health facilities, housing, and the very security of life and property depend upon our winning the right to vote.

THE CHURCHILL-STALIN GET-TOGETHER

Our right to vote will come only when the American people with our help insist upon equality of suffrage in the United States. The trade unions, particularly the C. I. O. are in the forefront of this fight. It should be no more difficult to make common cause with the C. I. O. and the A. F. L. than it was for a Tory government in England to make common cause with Communist Russia. We too are fighting for our lives.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

NEGROES SHOULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE PARADE AND RALLY AT HOUSTON—ALL RACES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

MAR 1 1941

AS I SEE IT an error was made and a black spot left on the reputation of Houston Saturday for having omitted Negroes from the National Defense parade which lasted for one hour and a half. Likewise, it was a smear to have Negroes omitted from the program of the Youth Rally at the City Auditorium Sunday in observance of Brotherhood Week.

No youths would have been more benefitted than Negro youths from the lectures given on "Youth and Democracy" by three outstanding leaders who represented various religious faiths namely: Dr. William C. Burton, pastor First Congregational Church, Kansas City, speaking for the Protestants; Dr. F. S. Lisewski, president St Edwards University of Austin, speaking for the Catholics, and Dr. Julian Feibelman, Jewish Rabbi of New Orleans.

It is reported there was a bit of confusion among the committee on arrangements to make up a program where Negro and white youth could participate and it was finally decided to leave the Negro out.

It was obvious from the absence of Negroes in the Youth Rally at the City Auditorium that one of the **speakers statement that "We all believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man," was not** applicable to his Houston audience.

Many observers were astounded in viewing the defense parade Saturday to see the representatives of 100,000 or more Negroes were omitted. It was the first time since the beginning of the last World War that Negroes were absent from such patriotic demonstrations. On Armistice Day, Negroes made a splendid showing in the parade and in other observances where they participate whether in parade or otherwise.

AS I SEE IT, whoever is the blame for this situation is certainly making opportunities for communists and other agents of isms who are seeking every opportunity to divide the American people.

On March 5, 6, 7, or thereabouts, 79 Negro youths will join the ranks of other youths to make up the draft quota for Harris County. White and Negro leadership should not, in any way, hestitate to encourage Negro youths in their duty towards their country as all other youths.

Many of us complain bitterly about Negro youths lining up with the Communist element but how are we **going to convince Negroes as well as many whites that we have a true democracy when the Negro is the only race discriminated against and has to beg and fight for an opportunity in defense of his own land.**

Youth Meeting At Washington

MAR 1 1941

On February 7-9, the American Youth Congress with a mixed delegation of over 500 met at Washington. According to reports, the theme of the meting was "Old Jim-Crow Has Gotta Go." Most of the leaders in this movement were white youths from the Deep South. The chairman of the meeting was Jack Michael, a Theological student from Georgia. During the three-day convention, a picket line was formed around the War Department in protest mostly by whites, the Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, standing in the lobby of the War Department building, told the pickets that "he was the first secretary of war to appoint a Negro brigadier-general and a Negro civilian aide to the secretary of war, that he was planning the organization of a pursuit squadron to be composed of Negro personnel. Over 600 Negro delegates from very section of the country were in attendance to the convention.

The American Youth Congress is branded as communist dominated but, if it is communist, the organization certainly demonstrates the strength it has among American youth and the only way to check the movement is for defenders of democracy to put democracy into practice.

MAR 1 1941

I believe the great majority of Negroes do not want social equality, intermarriages or racial domination neither in war or peace. But, it is obvious now that leaders of the race are almost one in accord in seeking the same blessings from democracy that other groups enjoy.

AS I SEE IT, one of America's greatest weapons in defending democracy is the practice of TOLERANCE. The intolerant spirit has been the world's worst curse from Adam until now. Intolerance is the basic cause of the World War II. Hitler, in Nazi Germany, could not tolerate first the Jews. Now he cannot tolerate the English nor the Greeks, and soon, he will not tolerate the American people. And it is so very bad that a number of Americans dispay toward Negroes some of Hitler's characteristics especially in problems pertaining to defense of our country.

We stand today as a nation, and as a world, at the crossroad of human history. We are face to face with a world's crisis, the extent of which no person has yet appraised. **We are becoming to realize the fate of democracies is hanging in the balance and if this nation, the strongest and probably the last of the democracies, is to survive, we must practice democracy in spirit and in reality.**

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

NEGRO ENGINEERS SCARCE; SEEK TO TRAIN BIG GROUP

JAN 31 1941

CHICAGO, Jan 23—(ANP)—The widespread defense training courses for engineers being given by the federal government is touching very few Negroes. Some $11,000,000 has been appropriated for the colleges which are giving these engineering courss, known as refresher training, and designed to bring up-to-date men who have either finished engineering schools or have had certain experience in the field of engineering.

There are 91 engineering schools in 41 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico which are offering in all 444 different courses. Each course is designed to prepare a group of students with some technical training and experience for service with manufacturers or federal agencies engaged in the national defense program in such capacities as designers, inspectors, or supervisors of production.

The program is being administered by U. S. Commissioner of Education John W. Studebaker, assisted by Dr. J. F. Kelly of the U. S. Office of Education and Dean Roy A. Seaton of Kansas State College.

Queried by ANP here recently, Dr. Kelly deplored the fact that more Negroes were not being reached but admitted that this was the case. He said that evidently here were comparatively few Negro engineers.

In all congress has appropriated $36,000,000 for national defense training. This includes sums spent through NYA, CCC and through projects set up by various state vocational educational departments. Reports from the South indicate that Negroes are getting but limited opportunities through these funds although Dr. Studebaker has sent out a bulletin specifically charging that Negroes are to be included.

In Alabama, enrollees at four NEGRO CCC camps are receiving some training. None of the Negro colleges thus far has been included. There is one NYA center located in Birmingham which is doing defense training. The few Negro students are said to be engaged chiefly in janitorial work or in such unskilled tasks as removing tires and polishing autos.

In Chattanooga, Tenn., the Chattanooga Vocational school recently sent a notice to newspapers and to the Tennessee state employment service, asking for 20 colored men between the ages of 18 and 25. These men were wanted for a course designated as a "defense course in automobile servicing."

Harvey S. Bloker, manager of the employment service, said that applicants for the course must have had an eighth grade education and preferably high school training.

Br. Bloker said the course would include instruction in ho wto handle gasoline, grease jobs, battery work and other types of automobile care. Mr. Bloker was careful to point out that no mechanical training would be given. He said the course was listed as "a defense course" to provide trained men for the defense program "if need in this line."

In Alabama, vocational officers are reliably reported to have said that few Negroes were being trained because the law provides that those give ntraining have a reasonable chance to be used in industry after the emergency is over. Their comment was that Negroes could not qualify on this basis because it was apparent that they were not acceptable to the industry.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Group Hits FDR's Stab at 8-Hour Day

JAN 9 1941

City Negro Congress Calls Move Direct Blow to Labor

Abandonment by President Roosevelt of the 8-hour day in the

construction of Caribbean naval bases was denounced yesterday by the National Negro Congress of New York as an "insult to the Negro and white people of our nation."

In a formal statement signed by William Gaulden, secretary, the move was described as **"a direct attack upon the labor movement in the United States which can only result in undermining the gains which labor has achieved through years of struggle."**

JAN 9 1941

Quoting the President's explanation that he does not "wish to upset conditions in colonies which do not belong to the United States," the statement demanded: "Mr. President, does this mean that wherever American finance capital finds enslavement of colonial peoples by Great Britain, the United States shall be happy to give aid and comfort to this condition?"

The extreme exploitation of 500,000,000 people by British rule throughout the world, said the statement, is "the democracy which we are called upon to support. To perpetuate these conditions we are called upon to give all aid to Britain."

Turning to the President's speech at the opening of the 77th Congress, the statement demands that **"the President carry out for the benefit of the Negro people the third of the 'four essential freedoms'—freedom from want . . . which, translated into world terms, means economic understanding which will secure to every nation a healthy peace-time life for its inhabitants everywhere in the world."**

JAN 9 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

OUR SHORTAGE OF ARTISANS

Owing to the shortage of trained Negro artisans, our group is losing and will continue to lose hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of dollars in wages in the coming months when so much of the wealth and energy of the nation will be expended on national defense construction and production.

FEB 22 1941

In many places the demand for trained Negro artisans is exceeding the supply, and it has happened in some instances that calls have had to be sent out to adjacent communities and even distant ones in an effort to fill quotas.

This situation exists through no fault of our people.

More of them do not have the training and experience because they have been denied work by both employers and A. F. of L. unions of skilled workers.

We have the strange situation in many places of most Negro artisans being elderly men who learned their trade before the restriction on Negro artisans became so severe.

There is something that can be done about it, and whether or not it is done depends upon the intelligence of Negro community leadership.

Millions of dollars are being spent now to prepare young men and women to function as artisans and mechanics.

Local Negro defense committees can militantly demand that this training be made available to colored youth, and it will be done.

FEB 22 1941

These local committees can see to it that after Negro youths are so trained, jobs are made available to them.

This can be done by working with and upon unions of skilled workers to get them to admit Negroes to membership so that employers will have no excuse to deny them jobs.

FEB 22 1941

This is a time of great opportunity and we should make preparations to grasp this opportunity.

The influence of defense production is already seen in the lessening of unemployment.

In the natural course of events, Negroes will get more jobs replacing white workers who move on to better paid jobs, but we must see to it that colored labor also gets its share of these better paid jobs.

FEB 22 1941

These jobs are due us because we are helping to pay the cost of the defense program.

We must make a tremendous effort in all parts of the country to see that we get our share of the boom wages.

National unity means opportunities and privileges for all as much as it means taxation and duties for all.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Won't Get Jobs As Before

FEB 16 1941

FRANKFORT, Ky.—(ANP)—The Negro cannot expect to profit from the present armament program in the same manner he did during the first World war according to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant, the advisory commission to the council of national defense. The statement was made before the student body at Kentucky State college in connection with the observance of National Negro History Week.

In 1914-18 there was an increased demand for industrial output at the same time that a labor shortage, particularly in the unskilled fields, was created by aliens returning home, a dropping off of European immigration, and the entrance of a large part of the laboring force of the country into the armed service. The southern Negro, both drawn by energetic efforts of industrialists and pushed by social, economic, and political conditions in the South, migrated northward to fill in the gap. These people experienced a prosperity staggering to their imaginations. Dr. Weaver stated that the same conditions do not exist today.

SKILLED WORKERS WANTED

In the present armament drive, there is a demand for increased industrial output, but instead of an ordinary labor shortage, there is widespread employment, particularly in the urban areas. What demand there is for labor, said the speaker, is for skilled labor. Technological charges have taken place in industrial production in the last 20 years which have made it possible to eliminate much of the unskilled work which was done by the migrating Negroes of the first World War.

FEB 16 1941

In the present crisis the Negro finds himself in competition with the many unemployed white men who like himself do not have the specific skills which are in demand. Unless the Negro worker can obtain training he cannot hope to share proportionately in the booming labor market. In a few restricted fields Negroes have adequate training and are accepted with little question by employers; the building trades, though highly unionized, are an example.

The recent depression increased the shortage of skilled men for industry, and the government, realizing that for every man in the armed forces of the nation nine must work behind the lines to supply them, has organized a training program for industrial workers. Besides training in industry and industrial apprenticeships, methods of training over which the government can exert but advisory influence, there is an active federal program of education in the nation's vocational schools.

NOT GIVEN JOBS

Dr. Weaver stated that though not perfect there are federal regulations which attempt to guarantee to the Negro a just share in this training program. While these may be perfected as time goes, one of the present drawbacks as far as Negroes entering these training courses is the fact that after a period of training they are not immediately hired. The speaker expressed the opinion that this condition would correct itself as production approaches its peak and the military training program gets into high gear.

FEB 16 1941

The Negro must be ready to take advantage of this change when it occurs, and to do so must be trained. A trained man unemployed is immeasurably better off as far as ability to take advantage of opportunities than an unemployed man who is unskilled, who is without any particular training in the highly technical work required by industrial production today, Dr. Weaver pointed out.

35g-1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Dime-a-bag Charge Cuts in on Red Caps' Tips

JAN 4 1941

When red caps at railroad stations compelled the roads to pay them regular wages, they started something that didn't work out according to Hoyle.

The railroads paid the red caps thirty cents an hour and then worked out a scheme by which tips of passengers go now to the railroads instead of the porters.

So red cap wages have generally decreased instead of increasing, and railroads are actually making a profit out of the handling of baggage.

Here's how the whole thing began. The Wage and Hour law went into effect in 1938, and it was not until this year that railroads were compelled by the government to recognize porters as employees.

Red caps sued for two years' back pay. This suit is still pending and may drag on for several years.

The B. and O. railroad cut in on the red caps' tips by instituting a rule that passengers shall pay porters 10 cents for each piece of luggage handled.

Porters are given perforated and numbered tags.

They were required to attach a part of the tag to each article carried and to turn in the other half of the tag at the railroad office, together with ten cents for each tag that had been used.

B. and O. redcaps belong to the A.F. of L. Five men are employed at Camden station. Three work the morning and two the evening shift.

The Pennsylvania station porters no longer use the perforated tag system. Instead, they are now issued a book, which has in it ten dollars worth of small receipts. Porters merely tear off one of these receipts and hand it to the passenger for each parcel carried.

Pennsy Pay Higher

Instead of the thirty-cents-per-hour wage, porters at the Pennsylvania station are paid thirty-six cents per hour, or two dollars and eighty-eight cents per day, under the provisions of their new agreement with the railroad, signed recently.

The porters believe that each new agreement will bring better pay and better working conditions. The agreements are signed each year when officials of the porters' union and the railroad meet to draw up a contract for the coming year.

Some of the porters are not members of the union, but all of them get the benefits of whatever agreements are made.

Thirty-nine men work at the Pennsylvania station, in three shifts. Fifteen men work on the two day shifts and nine at night.

Slight Effect on Income

At the B. and O. stations, where the old system of tags is still in effect, Arthur W. Brown, head of the porters' union at Camden and Mount Royal stations and director of the porter service at the two stations, said that in his opinion the tag system meant very little decrease, if any, in the porters' pay, over a period of a year.

There would be certain times, he said, when the tags would mean a decrease, but this would be balanced in the slack seasons.

However, it does mean that the porters have more work to do and they are more confined than before, he said.

System Unpopular

Porters at the station said that they did not object so much to the ten-cent charge as they did to the tag system.

They said that one of their number had been laid off for more than a month because he failed to tag a passenger's bag. The porter said that the passenger objected to the tag's being put on his bag, but he was laid off until an investigation was made.

There have been instances, they said, where a passenger would not want his bag tagged, or where a passenger would refuse to pay the charge.

Porters are requested to report such cases to the office immediately, it was stated.

Public Welcome Slow

At the Pennsylvania Station, Stephen Wright, secretary of the union, said that the porters make less under the ten-cent charge. He pointed out that a person might have five small pieces and that fifty cents was an excessive fee for such a service.

However, there has been no trouble in collecting the money. In the beginning, before the charge was understood, some the of the travelers seemed to think that the porters were asking for it for themselves and there was some resentment.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

SHORTAGE OF SKILLED MEN IS REVEALED

JAN 10 1941

McNutt Admits Scarcity of Machinists, Tool and Die Makers, Etc.

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—With the supply of available workers in a number of skilled defense occupations almost exhausted in some localities, Paul V. McNutt, FSA administrator, admitted that here was a scarcity of machinists, tool and die makers, skilled metal workers and aircraft and shipbuilding craftsmen. Semi-skilled and unskilled workers were reported to be adequate in most localities where defense programs are under way.

General Shift

Significant indeed was the report which showed a general shifting of workers to centers of defense activity; development of housing shortages in communities where there has been a great influx of workers; and some delays in production because of inability to secure needed machinery or raw materials.

JAN 10 1941

To stem the excessive migration of labor, Mr. McNutt strongly urges all workers to check with the local state employment office in their own communities before leaving home in search of work. Despite the the efforts of the U. S. Employment service to discourage needless migration, news of defense projects and rumors of job opportunities have drawn thousands of workers to industrial centers and sites of construction projects.

Recruit Workers

Qualified workers have had to be recruited from outside localities on some of these projects, but Mr. McNutt points out many of these migrant workers do not have the skills required. As a result, they remain unemployed and their families homeless. Where there has been prior clearance of job prospects and labor requirements with local public employment offices, he said, such unfortunate situations have been avoided.

An increasing number of employers are reported to be hiring or retaining skilled workers who are not presently needed, in order to make certain of having them when the need arises. Even in the semi-skilled and unskilled occupations, the usual large excess of applicants over jobs is rapidly being reduced. In this connection, reports from all parts of the country indicate that domestic help and farm hands are leaving their usual employment to take unskilled jobs in factories and construction work.

As a further means of coping with the problem of limited supplies of skilled labor, employers are hiring semi-skiled workers for training on the job; are using workers in related occupations wherever possible and are breaking down skilled operations into several less skilled steps with a system of training and upgrading as workers acquire experience.

GENERAL

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

ARE TIPS WAGES?

JUN 7 1941

THE UNITED STATES Supreme Court has another decision of far-reaching effect for the Negro when it is called upon to decide the question of whether tips are wages under the Fair Labor Standards Act. General Philip B. Fleming, administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, has intervened in the suit brought by red caps employed at the Union Terminal Company, Dallas, Texas, against the terminal company for restitution of wages under the Wage and Hour Law, and asked the Supreme Court to review the case.

The red caps maintain that tips cannot be considered as part of wages paid, but that the statutory minimum wage of 30 cents per hour should be paid by the terminals without regard to tips. Indirectly, their contention affects all workers who receive all or part of their renumeration in the form of tips. A recent government survey estimates their number throughout the country to be approximately 888,500. Most of these are waiters, and many are of the Negro group.

JUN 7 1941

We have been informed that the red caps of most Northern terminals have been placed
of most Northern terminals have been placed
on an hourly salary basis in conformity with the Wage and Hour law but there are still thousands of Negroes in other parts of the country dependent upon tips for their livlihood.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RED CAP PAY CLAIM UNDER ADVISEMENT

66 Men at Union Station Have Done All They Can to Collect $45,000 They Think Is Due Them.

JAN 4 - 1941

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 2. (ANP)—The suit to recover from the Terminal Railroad Association $45,490 claimed to be due 66 red caps at Union station as back wages under the Wage-Hour law, was taken under advisement by United States District Judge George H. Moore Wednesday after submission of an agreed statement of facts and arguments by counsel for both sides.

In the agreed statement of facts, it was shown that the red caps received $55,157 in tips for carrying luggage of travelers during the period from Oct. 24, 1938, when the law became effective, and last Jan. 6, when the suit was filed. Carleton S. Hadley, counsel for the terminal, contended that gratuities to employees belonged to the employer, and referred to an agreement of Oct. 24, 1938, under which the Terminal guaranteed payment of the minimum legal wage to the extent tips did not reach the minimum. Judge Moore asked whether the company had reported the tips as income and Hadley replied he did not know but thought not.

Charles M. Hay, representing the red caps, argued that any contract to violate a provision of the law, was void. He remarked that, even if the red caps got the $45,490 in addition to the $55,157 in tips, the total would amount only to about $100 a month for each man.

NEGRO ENGINEERS SCARCE; SEEK TO TRAIN BIG GROUP

FEB 15 1941

CHICAGO, Jan 23—(ANP)—The widespread defense training courses for engineers being given by the federal government is touching very few Negroes. Some $11,000,000 has been appropriated for the colleges which are giving these engineering courses, known as refresher training, and designed to bring up-to-date men who have either finished engineering schools or have had certain experience in the field of engineering.

FEB 15 1941

There are 91 engineering schools in 41 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico which are offering in all 444 different courses. Each course is designed to prepare a group of students with some technical training and experience for service with manufacturers or federal agencies engaged in the national defense program, in such capacities as designers, inspectors or supervisors of production.

The program is being administered by U. S. Commissioner of Education John W. Studebaker, assisted by Dr. J. F. Kelly of the U. S. Office of Education and Dean Roy A. Seaton of Kansas State College.

Queried by ANP here recently, Dr. Kelly deplored the fact that more Negroes were not being reached but admitted that this was the case. He said that evidently there were comparatively few Negro engineers.

In all congress has appropriated $36,000,000 for national defense training. This includes sums spent through NYA, CCC and through projects set up by various state vocational educational departments. Reports from the South indicate that Negroes are getting but limited opportunities through these funds although Dr. Studebaker has sent out a bulletin specifically charging that Negroes are to be included.

FEB 15 1941

In Alabama, enrollees at four NEGRO CCC camps are receiving some training. None of the Negro colleges thus far has been included. There is one NYA center located in Birmingham which is doing defense training. The few Negro students are said to be engaged chiefly in janitorial work or in such unskilled tasks as removing tires and polishing autos.

In Chattanooga, Tenn., the Chattanooga Vocational school recently sent a notice to newspapers and to the Tennessee state employment service, asking for 20 colored men between the ages of 18 and 25. These men were wanted for a course designated as a "defense course in automobile servicing."

Harvey S. Bloker, manager of the employment service, said that applicants for the course must have had an eighth grade education and preferably high school training.

Br. Bloker said the course would include instruction in ho wto handle gasoline, grease jobs, battery work and other types of automobile care. Mr. Bloker was careful to point out that no mechanical training would be given. He said the course was listed as "a defense course" to provide trained men for the defense program "if need in this line."

MODERN FARMER

In Alabama, vocational officers are reliably reported to have said that few Negroes were being trained because the law provides that those give ntraining have a reasonable chance to be used in industry after the emergency is over. Their comment was that Negroes could not qualify on this basis because it was apparent that they were not acceptable to the industry.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WILL ACCEPT ALL QUALIFIED WORKERS, SAYS

APR 6 - 1941

Advisor On Negro Affairs

WASHINGTON, April 3—(ANP)—Making a survey of some of the larger construction companies handling huge contracts under the defense program of building and construction, Homer Martin Lancaster, adviser on Negro affairs in the department of commerce has just received a number of flattering replies to his queries as to the use of Negro workers and the letting of subcontracts to Negroes.

Selected from the large list of contractors in various parts of the country, the replies are both interesting and illuminating. Some 21 contractors out of 30 contacted sent in replies to Mr. Lancaster.

In his letter, the advisor on Negro affairs asked would the contractors be agreeable to letting Negro contractors have work in electrical, glazing, painting, cementing and carpenters' fields. The replies varied but were to the point.

From Alabama one contractor wrote there were no electrical or glaziers or carpenters used, but he used lots of Negroes in cement work, brick work and in plastering.

APR 6 - 1941

California: No objections to their use provided they were qualified. Another from the same section "see no reason why they would be discriminated against, provided employes of members of respective unions our firm has agreement with. At present we employ many Negroes."

Will Accpt Qualified Negroes

Another from the same section; " we have no objection to the acceptance of qualified Negroes on defense projects."

Washington, D. C., wrote, "willing to accept qualified Negroes suitable on defense projects." Another Washington contractor said: "As long as they carry cards we have not and do not intend to refuse hiring Negro laborers or mechanics on our projects."

From Jacksonville, Fla., it was stated that Negroes had been used very successfully in all of the crafts. They were highly satisfactory on the small contracts, but could not be used on large contracts as the company " did not feel it the best policy " to have mixed white and colored workers."

Down in Georgia a firm replied that they used all Negro plasterers and cement finishers and hire qualified Negroes in general.

Chicago said: "Any responsible sub-contractor operating on a union basis is acceptable." Kansas said, "We would be glad to favor Negro sub-contractors with such work."

APR 6 - 1941

Over in Baltimore it was said that the company will accept qualified Negroes on their defense projects. Boston reported, no hesitancy from the past experience with Negroes; Detroit says, qualified Negroes and union members are always considered; New York says all types are taken regardless of race, creed or color, depending upon qualifications. Another one in the same city said, "yes, provided they are qualified and stand right with the union."

Another company operating in Baltimore and New York and Newport News, Va., said they are using a large percentage of Negroes on a project they are constructing in Newport News, Va., but they have not come in contact with any Negro sub-contractors.

Negro Very Efficient

Down in North Carolina, two firms say they find the Negro very efficient and use any number of skilled Negro mechanics. "We do and will continue to accept qualified Negro sub-contractors and skilled mechanics."

In Philadelphia, it was reported that "we have and do hire qualified Negroes in all trades whenever they are available."

But in Norfolk, Va., the one sour note rises:

APR 6 - 1941

"If I were doing work in southern states where it is customary to use Negro sub-contractors, I would not hesitate to employ them. However, in Virginia, in which these trades are controlled by labor unions not affiliated with Negro unions, I do not employ them except as laborers, cement finishers, mortar mixers and hod carriers."

Mr. Lancaster was highly pleased with the results of his survey and intends to follow through on it with others of a similar nature to present to the country, if possible, a picture of the attitudes of the bigger firms, getting the bulk of the defense program contracts.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Census Bureau Findings Given

MAR 22 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Persons classified as nonwhite are an important factor in the nation's labor force, according to a preliminary report on the employment status as determined by the 1940 census.

The report indicated the proportion of nonwhite persons 14 years of age and over in the labor force exceeded the propotion of tions of white persons.

On the othere hand, the proportion of nonwhite persons in the labor force employed at private and nonemergency public work was less than the proportion of white persons.

The report further indicated that nonwhite persons were less fully employed at private and nonemergency public work in the Northern and Western states than in the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central States.

MAR 22 1941

The Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese and other nonwhite persons, as they are classified by the census, constituted 10.7 percent of all persons in the labor force.

35g-1941

GENERAL

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Jobs For College-Trained Men Open In Canal Zone

APR 6 - 1941

APR 6 - 1941

Positions Offer $1,800 Salary, Two Month's Vacation

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP) Jobs for college trained men with restaurant experience are available in the Panama Canal Zone officials this week informed Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant in the recently organized office of Production Management.

APR 6 - 1941

Appointed as stewards with the Panama canal in the Canal Zone the men will receive an entrance salary of $1,800 per year and two months annual vacation with pay. They will also be covered in the agency's retirement plan.

"Because stewards are looked upon as trainees for more responsible position of clubhouse secretary (somewhat similar to a YMCA secretary in the States, an official told Dr. Weaver, "we are seeking applicants with superior training and the capacity for sound growth. They should be graduates of a college degree or university of recognized standing, with some training in the field of recreation and business administration, preferably supplemented by experience also. They should have sufficient training or experience in restaurant work to enable them to intelligently handle the duties of a steward."

These duties involve management of restaurant activities in clubhouses operated by the Panama canal. They include supervision of cooks, kitchen helpers and waiters. The stewards are responsible for the cleanliness of the restaurant, for maintenance of records, for restaurant personnel matters. Their duties include also responsibility for purchase, requisition, inspection, storage and issuance of foodstuffs and supplies; and the rendering of assistance to the clubhouse secretary as occasion demands.

APR 6 - 1941

Persons who may be interested in such employment should write to the chief of police, the Panama, Canal, Washington, D. C. Their applications should indicate their education and experience, Applicants must be citizens of the United States. Persons under 35 years of a [illegible] preferred, however, applications of persons up to the maximum age of 45 years will be considered.

APR 6 - 1941

In releasing this information Dr. Weaver called attention to the standards set by the Panama canal and urged persons with qualifications outlined above to apply for the jobs.

APR 6 - 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON APPEAL FILED

Mediation Board Ruling Protested Because Union Bars Them

APR 12 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In a protest against a ruling of the National Mediation Board which places them under the jurisdiction of a union of which they cannot be members, the Red Caps Employees of St. Paul (Minnesota) Union Depot filed suit in District Court last Thursday requesting an injunction and mandatory orders to designate them as a separate union for collective bargaining purposes.

The request for an injunction was filed in behalf of the St. Paul workers by the United Transport Service Employees Union, of Chicago, of which Willard Townsend is president. The board's action in dismissing the request of the Red Caps for union classification, it was charged, is a violation of the Labor Act and the constitutional rights of the porters.

The basis for the present action dates back to April 25, 1938, when the men asked the St. Paul Depot Company for a working wage agreement. Nothing came of this effort, because of the unsettled conditions of the Red Caps at that time but when they were designated as "employees" under the Railway Labor Act the depot company took the position that Red Caps were previously covered by an agreement executed with the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight handlers, Express and Station Employees.

APR 12 1941

The Red Caps said that they could not become members of that union and that there were no intentions to include them. The National Mediation Board was asked to investigate and on May 6, 1940, arguments were heard on whether or not the Red Caps were a separate class for representative purposes within meaning of the Railway Labor Act or part of the lily-white union.

The board dismissed their request for recognition and ruled that they were not a separate class.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Deeds, Not Talk, Needed To Secure Jobs For Colored American Workers

APR 24 1941

NATIONAL Republican Chairman Joseph W. Martin is on record as urging a larger employment of colored workers in private, as well as in public industry. This is a great forward step taken at a time most needed. Already it has given fresh impetus to workers in this important industrial section and to many others in nearby areas.

It is essential that the cooperation of leaders of both organized labor and industry be secured. Thus a word to those interested may prove timely and helpful.

First, the workers and all who seek to advance their condition should concentrate their efforts upon Joseph R. Grundy in Pennsylvania, and Senator W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey. These two industrialists command potential power.

The Grundy Woolen Mills at Bristol give employment to hundreds of workers. The Barbour Linen Thread plant, located at Paterson, is the largest of its kind in America and the second largest in the world. It employs fifteen thousand, (15,000) workers. Neither the Grundy nor the Barbour plant employs colored workers in any capacity.

Primarily, the initial step should be to influence these two manufacturers to change this hurtful practice at their own plants. It should not be difficult to show them that the welfare of the colored worker is tied up with the welfare of the industrial community.

Do not lose sight of the fact that Mr. Grundy heads the powerful Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association, which comprises a membership of several thousand employers. Imagine the beneficial effect the employment of colored workers at the Grundy plant would have upon this whole industrial section!

APR 24 1941

So, too, with the Barbour plant in New Jersey. The employment of colored workers at that mammoth industrial unit would revolutionize conditions among Negro labor. Senator Barbour has courageously taken high ground at Washington on many vexing social questions which interfere with national progress. Here at his own doorstep he has an opportunity to correct a long-standing injustice to a deserving group of his own fellow citizens.

These two powerful Republicans could make effective the suggestion of their National Chairman.

Deeds, not talk, are needed!

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Getting 'Em Back

APR 26 1941

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

NEW DEFENSE WORK FOR WHITES GIVES US BACK OLD JOBS

APR 26 1941

QUITE a flurry is going on among the colored people in America for as the white workers are getting the good-paying jobs on Defense contracts, the colored workers by force of necessity are being given the old jobs that the white workers are discarding. Employment Agencies throughout the nation are placing all the "colored help" that they can get and almost anybody of color who wants a job can get one now, that is if he is not particular about the "Wages and Hours and Conditions of Employment."

Mr. Bibb

Hard times in the past compelled white people to take away from the lowly and unfortunate Senegambian almost all of the menial, grovelling, repulsive, reprehensible jobs that he held. They even took away from him in parts of the South the jobs of driving the "sanitary wagons" and cleaning the "out houses." They say that "hard times will make a monkey eat red pepper," and the depression forced the white man to gett off his lofty and supercilious perch and claim the colored man's job. It became the custom all over the country to hire whites in all jobs wherever and whenever possible. They are now returning to these dusky Caesars the things that belong to Caesar.

APR 26 1941

WE ARE GETTING JOBS

Oh no, the scale of pay is not the same and hours are longer but that is to be expected for it has always been the rule and the custom for white employers, and colored too, if we care to go into that subject, to purchase man power the same as if it were "mule power." But the point of this discussion is that we are getting the jobs. Even though we are being ignored and discriminated against in the boom of war work still we are receiving incidental benefits. Which clearly discloses the fact that it is impossible to figure us out of the American equation. That is the inevitable result in all of the ramifications of this "way of life." The Negro is in it somewhere and somehow. It is the thing that confounds and confuses the white man. He looks for us by water and we come by land.

THOUSANDS upon thousands of us are getting jobs as laborers, porters, dishwashers, garage workers, field and section hands. There is dignity in almost any kind of work and even though, there, perhaps will not be anymore money on hand at the end of the week still it is infinitely better than being on relief. This work comes as a blessing to us because it will restore to some extent our racial morale and will remove us from the state of being wards of the government. Then too, if we are smart and alert, we will, ere long, receive more money. Remember the Wages and Hour Law. Behold the Supreme Court and the Law of the Land.

APR 26 1941

PROFITS BY WAGE LAW

The Wages and Hour Law has created a minimum weekly wage that must be paid and also established a maximum of hours of work. This law includes all business engaged in "Interstate Commerce" and the Supreme Court has liberally construed, almost everything under the sun to be Interstate Commerce. This writer has not the slighest doubt that in the light of recent decisions that garrage workers, porters and dishwashers are engaged in Interstate Commerce. Therefore, the Law of the Land steps in and regulates our scale of pay and hours. It is indeed a "strange wind that blows nobody any good." Thus the colored people of America will profit by the New Deal Legislation and the new defense contracts, in spite of the fact that such was never intended.

APR 26 1941

IT is well that we continue our contest to break down discrimination on Government Projects and Defense contracts. It is well that we contend to get into the unions and break down the diabolical barriers. It is still better to know that we are fortified, as we fight, by the old jobs that we once held coming back to us and back to us under the protection of the new laws enacted by Congress and upheld by the highest court of the land. Let us profit by our past experiences and hold fast to every gain that we make, for as sure as day follows night the present boom will end. Let us conserve our gains to the end that the "eight ball" will not again cast its ominous shadows upon us.

Columbia. S. C. State
May 31, 1941

Negro PO Workers Meet

Seventy-five Negro postal employes from the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida attended their annual meeting here yesterday.

Talks were made by Mayor L. B. Owens, Assistant Postmaster G. S. Kester of the Columbia postoffice and W. S. Humphries, foreman of carriers of the Columbia office.

Welcome talks were made by Dr. E. A. Adams, the Rev. J. M. Hinton and Andrew Simmons, and the response was by the district president, S. J. McDonald.

National officers of the association on the program were: L. F. Ford, president; T. A. Bomar, secretary; Sidney Jackson, assistant chief clerk; R. M. S. Percy, comrade, and J. T. Anderson, district president.

F. P. Paul is president of the local branch.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

APR 24 1941

THIS COUNTRY IS NOW SUFFERING FROM A SHORTAGE OF COLORED MECHANICS. THE SOUTH WAS FLOODED WITH THEM WHEN THE CIVIL WAR CAME. AFTER THAT BLESSING OF GOD, THE SMILES OF FREEDOM BRED INTO THE EMANCIPATED, THE DESIRE FOR EDUCATION, AND SO THE CHILDREN WERE ALL SENT TO SCHOOL FOR THE PURPOSE OF BECOMING LAWYERS, DOCTORS AND UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS! MECHANICS GOT A GOOD SWIFT KICK INTO OBLIVION. IN NOT MANY YEARS, FEW ARTISANS WERE LEFT, WHERE THEY ONCE REIGNED SUPREME AND WERE AS PLENTIFUL, "AS AUTUMNAL LEAVES IN VALLOMBROSO."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

OUR SHORTAGE OF ARTISANS

FEB 15 1941

Owing to the shortage of trained Negro artisans, our group is losing and will continue to lose hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of dollars in wages in the coming months when so much of the wealth and energy of the nation will be expended on national defense construction and production.

In many places the demand for trained Negro artisans is exceeding the supply, and it has happened in some instances that calls have had to be sent out to adjacent communities and even distant ones in an effort to fill quotas.

This situation exists through no fault of our people.

More of them do not have the training and experience because they have been denied work by both employers and A. F. of L. unions of skilled workers.

We have the strange situation in many places of most Negro artisans being elderly men who learned their trade before the restriction on Negro artisans became so severe.

There is something that can be done about it, and whether or not it is done depends upon the intelligence of Negro community leadership.

FEB 15 1941

Millions of dollars are being spent now to prepare young men and women to function as artisans and mechanics.

Local Negro defense committees can militantly demand that this training be made available to colored youth, and it will be done.

These local committees can see to it that after Negro youths are so trained, jobs are made available to them.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Dietitians And Radio Men Needed By Nation

MAR 2 - 1941

NEW YORK CITY.—The National Urban League this week called attention to two new federal Civil Service examinations and urged that qualified Negro workers file applications at once.

The examinations are to secure workers qualified as RADIO INSPECTORS at from $2,000 to $2,600 a year, and DIETITIANS at $1,800 a year. Persons desiring to qualify for jobs as RADIO INSPECTORS must show that they have successfully completed a four-year college course leading to a bachelor's degree in electrical or communication engineering. No experience is required, but persons who have not completed their college course may offer one or two years of experience in dieu of a similar amount of college training. Application blanks must be on file before March 6.

Persons wishing to qualify as DIETITIANS must have completed a graduate course as Student Dietitian or must at the present time be senior students in such a course. They must be under 48 years of age, in good physical health. They will not be required to take a formal examination, but will be rated on their education and other qualifications as shown in their application blanks. There is no time limit before which applications must be filed, but when sufficient eligibles are obtained, the receipt of applications will be closed.

Application blanks for either examination may be obtained from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or from any first-class post office.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Unusual Achievements In Public Employment Listed

Dr. Percy Julian's Accomplishments Rated Above All

MAR 15 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Six stories of members of the race "crashed the color line" are important features of the March issue of Opportunity, Journal of Negro Life, which has just been issued. This issue is, as usual, devoted entirely to the subject of vocational guidance and training.

Outstanding among the articles is one on Dr. Percy L. Julian of Chicago, director of research for the Glidden Paint and Varnish Company. The record of the many hardships and disappointments which Dr. Julian overcame in reaching his present position constitutes a story of great inspiration to young people who are considering entering a career not usually open to Negroes.

FINAL O. K. ON SHIPS

Another article relates the story of Gustave Solomons, engineer for the Bethlehem Steel Company, whose job it is to test every ship built by this company in its Boston docks before it is turned over to the purchaser. Most of the ships built in this yard are for the use of the Navy or Coast Guard.

It is Mr. Solomons who give them the final check-up before they are delivered, and who shows naval officer how to operate any new device which are a part of their equipment.

Other "color line" stories tell of the success in unusual occupations of such persons as Mrs. Hazel Washington, leatherwork artist of Hollywood; Miss Mildred Blount, creator of millinery for many important pictures, including "Gone With The Wind"; Mrs. Zira Caison, director of her own upholstery business in Atlanta, Ga.; Owen Howell, manager of the Uptown Sanitary Shop of Minneapolis; Clarence A. Hughes, printing ink blender of St. Paul, Minn.; and John Mercer Wright, "Dean of the County Court House" of Topega, Kansas.

ARTICLES OF PROGRESS

Other articles appearing in the issue include one about the accomplishments of metropolitan junior achievement among Negro youth in Harlem, a second about the attitude of public employment service offices toward Negro applicants, and a third giving full details of the $70,000,000-defense training program now being carried on through the schools under the supervision of the U. S. Office of Education.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

End Of WPA Would End Negro White Collar Jobs

MAR 22 1941

WASHINGTON — "If work relief should be suddenly pulled out from under many a large urban community, Negro white-collar employment would collapse in a heap. Community centers, boy's clubs, settlement houses, playgrounds and the like would either close or curtail their program more than three-fourths by withdrawal of WPA workers", said Alfred Edgar Smith of the racial relations division of the WPA last week, discussing the criticism levelled at the WPA and its program.

"Vocational, adult, and nursery education would vanish suddenly" he continued, "from the city educational system Health clinics in some areas would close. Colored kids would go hungry all day with no free WPA lunches at school. Most of your friends and mine who have casually mentioned they are working as teachers, recreation directors, clerks, stenographers, statisticans, musicians, nurses, artists (without troubling to mention WPA) would all of a sudden by mysteriously unemployed.

MAR 22 1941

"We may as well face facts. WPA is still the only recourse for more Negro college graduates than you like to adimt. They used to run elevators and work in the nation's Grand Central stations after graduation. Now they do white collar work in keeping with their training but they are ashamed to admit their salaries are paid by the WPA. Some actors who have achieved prominence carefully avoid mention of the fact their experience and contacts came as a result of their WPA employment on the federal theater program. The same is true of musicians, and writers, and especially the clerks and stenographers who have recently been employed by the government in connection with defense.

"WPA has not done everything we would like to have seen it do for Negro workers. It deserves some criticism. But fair criticism. And in the midst of criticsm, face facts further and expect post-defenese unemployment around the corner. The census bureau, firing its large personnel by the hundreds each day, sees Negro clerks and typists forced to seek their old WPA jobs, in spite of all the defense employment. Its smart to criticise the WPA, especially if you have a good job or are a few dollars removed from the rest of the white collar Negroes on relief"

MAR 22 1941

Mr. Smith was not bitter in discussing the situation, which had grown out of adverse criticism by persons outside who knew little of the actual workings of the government, especially in the matter of employing Negroes on governmental jobs here in Washington, but he felt the matter had been overdone by persons eager to attempt to point out the shortcomings of the WPA without stopping to investigate their charge.

"It seems to me that excepting election-time propaganda, criticism of the WPA in the Negro press has been constructive. I know that it has been a source of propfit to me in my work," Mr. Smith said. "Now and then, hoever, some correspondent is handed an assignment to 'tear into the WPA" just on general principles. The result usually is a hodge podge of defamation and twisted fact which does not make sense to anybody. All the public knows is that somebody is apparently mad at WPA and wonders what it is all about".

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

More of Colored People Working Than of Whites

9

MAR 29 1941

WASHINGTON

Preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Census indicate that, in 1940, a larger percentage of the nations' colored population was at work than of the white group, and that likewise, a larger percentage was looking for jobs.

359

According to figures based on the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, there was 58.4 per cent of the non-white and 51.7 per cent of the white population, 14 years of age and over, in the labor force. Colored Americans are estimated to constitute 95.7 per cent of those classified as non-white, including Indians, Japanese, Chinese, etc.

MAR 29 1941

Women's Status Striking

The contrast was more striking among women than among men, the colored female working population constituting 37.6 per cent of the total colored female population over 14, while this figure for white women was only 24.2.

The prejudiced attitude of private industry was emphasized in the revelation that 5.7 per cent of the non-white working population is employed on such public emergency projects as WPA, NYA, CCC, etc., as compared with 4.4 per cent of the whites. Of the colored eligibles, 10.9 per cent are seeking work, but only 9.5 per cent of the whites.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Red Caps, Maids Given $5,637 In Back Wages

CHICAGO, Ill., March 27.—The first payment in the United States of back wages to red-caps under the Fair Labor Standards Act was made here this week when National Trailways Bus depot, 20 E. Randolph street, made voluntary restitution of $5,637.08 to 16 employees, it was announced by Thomas O'Malley, regional director, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor.

MAR 29 1941

ONE GETS

Checks ranging from $9.59 to $867.55 were given to 10 red caps and six women employed as washroom attendants.

359

The back wages represent the difference paid the employees and amounts due them under the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Act from Oct. 24, 1938 to June 1, 1940. The Act fixes a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour and requires the payment of time and one-half after 40 hours a week.

The bus depot is owned jointly by the Burlington and Santa Fe railroads, Mr. O'Malley said.

SEVERAL INJUNCTION ACTS

Several injunction actions brought by the division to restrain violations of the act in regard to

nation of the first contest of its kind held by the St. Joseph branch.

the payment of red caps and several employees' suits for back wages are pending in district federal courts and circuit courts of appeals in various parts of the country.

MAR 29 1941

Trial of a $1,600,000 employees' suit by red caps working at the railroad depots of the Milwaukee, Rock Island, Santa Fe, Western Indiana, Illinois Central, Northwestern, Pennsylvania, and New York Cetral roads was recently completed before Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan in Chicago and is now under advisement.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Negro Still Among the Idle

MAR 22 1941

9

President Roosevelt's administration is in the midst of its "all out" program of aid to Great Britain and her allies. In this program the chief executive, in his various addresses to the nation, has called upon all citizens to prepare to make sacrifices, to work longer and harder and to expect smaller profits. Indeed, he says, we face a grave emergency.

The Negro, whenever he has heard the call, has stepped forward, and answered "present". He has offered himself for any job that is at hand, in the army, in the navy, in the air crops, in the industrial plants, and in the islands of the sea where this country is busy fortifying its outposts with naval and airplane bases in preparation for the worst that may come.

In spite the urgency of the need for men—skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled, and in spite of the fact Defense Production Director William Knudsen has said that production must be stepped up 60 per cent, Negroes are systematically denied employment, purely and simply on a basis of color.

MAR 22 1941

Story

Reports are current that Great Britain has requested this country not to send Negroes to Trinidad to work on bases that are being constructed there. This information was provided by a Philadelphian who said he was told by a member of the Civil Service Commission in his home city that, in accepting applicants two sets of laws must be complied with; the laws of the U. S. and the laws of the British government in regards to the selection of personnel for the Islands. This policy, on the part of the British, even as thousands of Negroes are serving daily with committees on programs to aid Britain, is hardly understandable. It doesn't strike us very forcefully as a fight for true Democracy.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

HARLEMITES PLAN 'NEGRO DAY' TO FIGHT FOR JOBS

All Leaders Unite to Point Out Injustice of Ignoring Colored Workers

9

359

NEW YORK, May 21.—(By Nell Dodson for ANP)—Aroused by continued discrimination against Negroes in defense industries, and the Army and Navy, outstanding Harlem citizens were completing plans this week for National Negro day to be celebrated June 27.

Headed by the Citizens Coordinating committee, the movement had already gained the support of leading civic groups, Thursday. PM, New York daily paper, sounded the keynote behind initial plans last week by giving a nine-page spread to an expose of discrimination against both trained and untrained Negro workers in defense set-ups.

MAY 30 1941

Herbert Cook, chairman of the Negro Grocers' association of Harlem, who is heading the executive committee for Negro day, is working along with an advisory committee that includes G. Dalus Steele, Grand Deputy of IBPOEW, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Henry K. Kraft, executive secretary of the Harlem branch YMCA, Dr. S. H. Sweeney of St. Mark's M. E. church, and over a dozen other leading civic and social figures.

"I'm sure that every intelligent Negro in America today is getting disgusted with all of this talk of democracy and the light for preservation of equal rights when they won't even let us aid in the preparation of this country's defense. At a time when every American, black and white, shoul dbe standing shoulder to shoulder against the threat of war, 15 million citizens of this nation are being brazenly ignored when they demand to know why they haven't the right to work and live as other Americans have!" Cook stated. "It's about time we're showing we ca nstand up and light as a unified people. Negro day should be a national proclamation that Negroes have contributed to the cultural, social, and civic backgrounds of this country, are an integral part of this nation, and intend to be respeted as such."

The celebration in Harlem will include an hour-long parade of floats contributed by businesses, clubs, and fraternal organizations. There will be a special party for the children of the community, and the day will wind up with a dance at the Golden Gate ballroom.

Plans were under way for a radio broadcast over one of the national hook-ups, at a date to be announced later. Band leaders, cabaret entertainers and theatrical luminaries are to figure largely in the set-up of celebration preparations.

Aiding Cook on the executive committee are Homer Smith, Richard Thomas, Mrs. Iolanthe E. Sidney, Iona R. Morris, Sallv Gatling, Charles L. Clare, M. T. Magill, and Vernon F. Riddick.

MAY 30 1941

Members of the advisory committee are Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. S. H. Sweeney, Dr. C. B. Powell of the Amsterdam News, Henry Kraft, Daniel Burroughs, assemblyman of the 19th A. D., Wm. Andrews, assemblyman of the 21st A. D., Dr. E. F. Thompson, member of the Pennsylvania legislature, Raymond Jones, Julius Adams, Mrs. Bernia Austin, Mrs. Bessye Bearden, Henrietta Ravenall, Lillian Sharpe Hunter, Wilhelmenia Adams, Louise Morris, Ada Battle, Clarence D. King, Rodney Dade, Catherine D. Williams, Javan A. Steele, Dr. F. A. Cullen of Salem M. E. church, J. M. Watkins, Edward Mickey, Dewey Weinglass of Sepia-Art pictures, and J. Dalmus Steele.

35g-1941

GENERAL

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

OUSTER OF NEGROES ON DIXIE RAIL JOBS CAUSES CONCERN

NOV 23 1941

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—(ANP) --Is the government helping oust Negroes from their positions as firemen on the southern railroads, when it is reported that an agency in the department has issued orders that all southern railroads must operate Diesel engines or locomotives by 1943?

If this is true, then the government is party to an act which will deprive Negroes of another source of livelihood, which for years was entirely Negro until the wages and hours division realized that at one dollar per day, Negro firemen were underpaid and ordered their salaries raised and pay established on a scale comparable with other railroad employees.

This immediately brought about a change of attitude toward the hard work the Negroes were doing and whites began coming in the field.

The introduction of the Diesel engine has brought about a condition the locomotive engineers' union appreciates, for it has inserted a clause in the constitution which prohibits 'any person not eligible for promotion" from becoming a fireman on the Diesel engines.

Probably the only southern railroad which will ignore the dictates of the union is the Florida East Coast railroad, long known as the Flagler railroad, because before his death Mr. Flagler, builder, owner and president, made provisions that Negroes should be employed as firemen as long as it operated.

It will be interesting to see just how the government and union offset this provision.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Wages, Tips to Be Discussed Dec. 1

NOV 29 1941

Gen

WASHINGTON. — Naord Snyder, acting administrator of the wage and hour division of the U. S. Labor Department, announces that Dec. 1 has been set as the date for the hearings in his department on the question of tips or wages for the Red Caps at Union Station here.

During the last year and a half, a flat rate of 10 cents has been charged for each bag or parcel carried by porters at Union Station here and in several other stations in this section. The law specifies a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour or $2.40 for an eight-hour day.

NOV 29 1941

Porters may continue to accept tips above the regular fee, and do, if they can get them, but there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the operation of the system and the hearings have been set to determine just what can be done to adjust the matter.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Propaganda Is Aimed At Negro Labor

NOV 30 1941

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(A N P) —Negro employes of large concerns, which in the past did not hire Negroes, are not doing much to help their present situation, nor offer any reason why their employers should take on additional Negro help, if certain reports filtering into a governmental agency interested in Negro labor are to be taken seriously.

"Given to horseplay," says one of the reports, "Negro workers are demoralizing our plant."

Whether this is a true picture or whether it is an invention calculated to cause mental disturbances in places where Negroes are being considered for employment, nevertheless, it is a fact that such reports are beginning to filter into this, for the present unnamed, office.

Perhaps, as one of the officials is want to believe, it is merely a matter of insidious propaganda aimed at defenseless Negroes who are being shoved into new positions faster than ever before.

Some of the plants are actually hiring Negroes in far larger numbers than reported, and it is in these plants that workers are allegedly guilty of types of behavior that marks them as undesirable and unfit for serious work under serious conditions.

NOV 30 1941

Too much effort has been put into securing these jobs for Negroes and if there is any semblence of truth in reports, then it is high time, these officials say, for Negroes to get wise to themselves and conduct themselves as adults and not as children they are often pictured by whites.

This, along with a lack of training, has been pointed out time after time as among the reason that Negroes are not hired more often than they are.

It is not Negroes' fault that training is lacked in the majority of cases, but even when opportunity presents itself for Negroes to get training, they are slow in taking advantage of it.

The charge may be ethereal, or it may be real, but there are numbers of letters continuing just such complaints on the desk of higher-ups of various departments and they feel it is up to Negroes to remedy all of them and make an effort in this direction immediately.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

White Leaders Join Fight for Employment

Gen

To Hold Nation-Wide Meeting In New York December 3 to Air Views and Work Out A Program

NOV 28 1941

NEW YORK.—An agreement has been made among a number of radio commentators, newspaper columnists and other molders of public opinion to cooperate in a campaign designed to open wide the gates of industry to Negro workers through a direct appeal to the white American working man.

George W. Harris, former Harlem editor and alderman, now president of the Harlem Association of Trade and Commerce, revealed this week that Pearl S. Buck, noted writer, would preside as chairman of a program committee which will meet in Radio City Dec. 3, to arrange the details.

The plan originated with Mr. Harris who then enlisted the aid of Miss Buck in securing the cooperation of the nation's leading opinion makers.

Last week Miss Buck wrote Mr. Harris that she already had promises of cooperation from outstanding individuals such as Dorothy Thompson, Raymond Graham Swing, Edwin C. Hill, Westbrook Pegler and Gabriel Heatter, among others.

Under tentative plans, regional and district committees of whites and Negroes all over the country will work hand in hand to obtain results.

NOV 28 1941

A Challenge

A challenge to the government calling for a greater measure of democcracy for white Americans could conceivably qualify as an important move. But the same challenge issued in behalf of colored Americans, in the opinion of Fox Movietone News, is of doubtful news value.

The New York Ttimes recently published a letter written by Pearl S. Buck in which the famous writer challenged the government either to scrap its constitution or make democracy a living reality for twelve million Negro Americans. The widespread interest this challenge aroused was reflected in succeeding letters to the same newspaper, most readers agreeing that the challenge was the most courageous and most noble stand ever taken on the race question by a white person since the days of slavery.

James H. Hubert, director of the New York Urban League, the first person to interest Miss Buck in the plight of the American Negro, felt that extracts from her challenge, read by Miss Buck herself, would make for a highly entertaining and instructive newsreel feature.

Taking his suggestions to the Fox Movietone News, he survived the usual run-around and finally reached J. C. Kaney, news editor, who told him what was what. Mr. Kaney said:

"The challenge is issued in behalf of the Negro race. Hence, I fail to see its news value."

NOV 28 1941

American democracy and what it means to twelve million American Negroes is being put to critical scrutiny by hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers all because a 'teen age white youth was mortally stabbed on the fringe of Harlem in an alleged attempted holdup by a trio of 'teen age colored boys. Neighbors joined the grrieved parents of the victim in pi- in a demand for more police protection. Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine assigned hundreds of additional policemen to the affected white areas.

Newspapers threw the spotlight on crime conditions in Harlem. Miss Buck blamed the conditions in Harlem on race prejudice and dared the government to scrap the Constitution or extend its benefits to the Negro.

That set the bandwagon rolling with liberals hopping on it at every stop.

NOV 28 1941

Lester Granger, secretary of the National Urban League, said:

"The problem of Harlem is clearly a national one which should be solved not only by improving the condition of the Negro in the South so that he would not consider it necessary to migrate North. No local program can be effective in the long run unless it is backed up by national action.

Much has been made of the migration of Negroes into New York from the South. Observers overlook entirely the fact that approximately as many white southerners have left their homes and have migrated to New York City and the state in search of oportunities. No noticeable problem has been created by the migration of whites because these have been accepted by fellow New Yorkers as simply new residents and accorded all of the opportunity and privileges that other residents have enjoyed.

"It has been contrary with the Negro. Instead of being accepted, they have been rejected by the older New York population. Confined to certain residential areas, certain occupational callings and to a lower economic and social condition than that desired by the majority of old New Yorkers.

"The miserable existence of Negroes in the North can be riches compared with some of the wages paid in some sections of the South, not only to Negroes but to whites as well. It is not that the riches of the North attract the Negroes, but the starvation of te South ejects them.

NOV 28 1941

"While we are taking steps to improve conditions in New York City, similar steps should be taken to improve conditions for Negroes in that part of the country where the majority is now located, the Deep South. Such improvements would include larger employment opportunity, better housing conditions, better health and educational facilities and more secure enjoyment of the civil liberties which are supposedly the possession of every American."

Henry W. Pope, Negro executive with the Welfare Council of New York, a federation of eight hundred private and semi-private social agencketing Mayor LaGuardia's residence cies said that much of the crime and degeneracy which abounds in underprivileged communities all over the country was the result of the "skepticism and distrust which characterized the attitude of an ever increasing number of American Negroes toward the intention of the American white people to permit the Negro his rightful share in the fruits of American life."

NOV 28 1941

Cecelia Cabaniss Saunders, secretary of te Harlem YWCA, declared that the revolt of Negroes against racial prejudice is the chief cause of unrest among Negroes everywhere". Further she said that it was "important that Negroes should wage a relentless fight for their rights to attract attention to the practices of democracy at a time when so much publicity is being given to its pronouncements."

NOV 28 1941

James H. Hubert, secretary of the New York Urban League, and James Reid, famous Harlem crusader for white collar jobs for Negroes, lean to the opinion that if government and industry would take effective steps to open the doors of industry to Negro workers, the Negro would need little if any outside help in solving his other problems.

NOV 28 1941

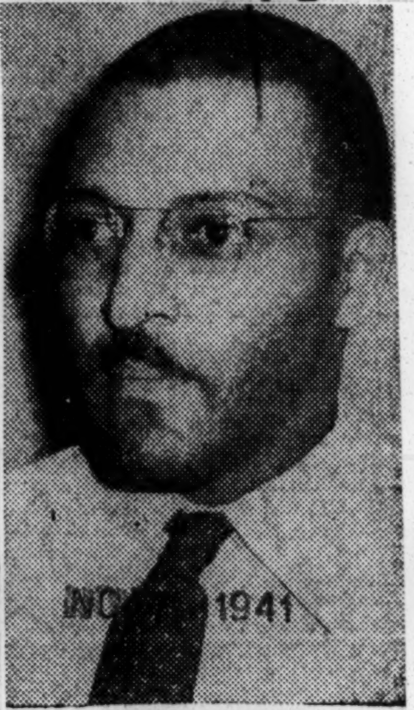
Harrison S. Jackson, Harlem lawyer, who first conceived the idea of a National Negro Congress to wage a united fight against race prejudice urged Negro leaders everywhere to send copies of Pearl Buck's plea to white industrialists and merchants in their communities. "There is no doubt that national prejudice is the cause of strife between the races," he said. "The best way to fight this prejudice is through unified effort on the part of both races, but whites will not be impressed unless Negroes can first establish collective leadership among themselves."

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

More and More Work Available But Too Few Negroes Are Prepared

Roy A. Ellis of U. S. Employment Service Urges Men, Women, Youths To Enroll for Defense Training

Unless Negroes take advantage of the training opportunities open to them and do it in a hurry, the employment picture looks dark, Roy A. Ellis, United States Employment Service official, told Kansas Citians Monday night, November 3, at the Paseo Y. M. C. A.


ROY A. ELLIS

NOV 7 1941

Speaking at a regular branch meeting of the N.A.A.C.P., Mr. Ellis told of the vast labor supply that would be needed in the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma within the next year and then cited the all too few Negroes who are ready to be a part of that supply.

Mr. Ellis, who is assistant technical representative of the Social Security Board of which the Employment Service is a part, has been working in the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas for several months. Headquarters for the region are in Kansas City.

"It is disgraceful," Mr. Ellis said, "that in the two Kansas Cities which have a combined population of 60,000 Negroes, only 80 young men have been interested enough to take aircraft sheet metal training which is offered on both sides of the river."

NOV 7 1941

Aircraft sheet metal classes are offered both at the Manual Training high school in Kansas City, Mo., and at the old Sumner high school building in Kansas City, Kas. In both cities, Negroes and whites use the same building and the same facilities.

Forty-five Youth Are Receiving Aircraft Training

Fifteen have been graduated from the Missouri school and 20 from the Kansas school, making a total of 35 graduates. Forty-five now are in training at the two schools.

Mr. Ellis was at a loss to explain why Negro youths are so reluctant to take the training—offered free of charge—which will enable them to get skilled jobs in airplane factories.

"Even if employers said that they would not hire Negroes our young men should take the training any way. But here we have a situation wherein trained Negroes are being employed in the North American Aviation bomber plant in Kansas City, Kas., and still they don't take the training. I can't understand it."

Between five and 10 young Negroes who have completed the aircraft sheet metal course are at work at the bomber plant. They now are classified (as are white youths) as material builders, but Mr. Ellis said that when the assembly line starts at the bomber plant those youths who demonstrate their ability as sheet metal workers will get skilled jobs.

Mr. Ellis reviewed the efforts of Negro citizens and of government officials at Washington during the past year to secure training facilities for Negroes equal to those for whites. Now that the training is offered, the big job is to find Negroes to enroll in the courses.

155,000 Workers Will Be Needed in 4-State Area

Ellis said that a labor supply of 155,000 persons will be needed in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas within the next 12 months. He pointed out that at peak production, the bomber plant will use 12,000 workers, the Remington-Arms ammunition factory at Lake City, Mo., 8,000; the Boeing Aircraft factory at Wichita, about 18,000; the U. S. Small Arms plant in St. Louis, from 25,000 to 30,000; the Douglass Aircraft plant at Tulsa, about 14,000.

Other major defense industries in this region which also will need thousands of men are the shell-loadin plant at Parsons, Kas.; the nitrate plant at Baxter Springs, Kas.; the plant at Weldon Springs, Mo.

All of these plants will have to follow the policy of the federal government and exhaust the local labor supply before workers can be imported from outside the area.

"Negroes are a part of the local labor supply," Ellis said, "but unless they are trained they cannot be considered."

35g-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE CIO

PUBLISHES PAMPHLET ON POLICY TOWARD COLORED WORKERS

SEP 20 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

A NUMBER of my friends have kidded me from time to time about my great affection for the CIO. Now I've got an answer for them. It is not exactly my answer but it is the one that I have been thinking about and one which should have been made sometime ago. As a matter of fact I have reference to a little pamphlet recently printed by the Congress of Industrial Organizations entitled "The C.I.O. and the Negro Worker."

The constitution of the Congress states that one of its objectives is: "To bring about the effective organization of the working men and women of America regardless of race, creed, color, or nationality, and to unte them for common action into labor unions for their mutual aid and protection."

Mr. Cayton

The fundamental economic reasons for the encouragement of race prejudice and the unalterable stand of the CIO in combating this practice is stated in a resolution unanimously adopted by the San Francisco convention of the CIO.

> **"Whereas, employers constantly seek to split one group of workers from another, and thus to deprive them of their full economic strength, by arousing prejudices based on race, creed, color or nationality, and one of the most frequent weapons used by employers to accomplish this end is to create false conflicts between Negro and white workers; now, therefore, be it**
>
> **"Resloved, that the CIO hereby pledges itself to unconpromising opposition to any form of discrimination, whether political or economic, based on race, color, creed or nationality."**

HEARING persons giving lip service to these sort of sentiments is not a new experience for the Afro-American. As the boys say, the white people have been "jiving" Negroes with high sounding phrases and low behavior for lo these many years. But to find an organization that says it, means it, and tries to live up to it is a new experience. It is so important that even a Negro doctor, lawyer or business man interested in milking his clients to the last penny should be interested, at least to the extent of seeing that his clients get more money so as to increase his fees.

STRENGTH LIES IN RACE POLICY

But the reason for the CIO's sentiment is not based upon sentimentalism, but rather on hard-headed insight to the race and workers' problem in America. The CIO claims that the lack of race perjudice is indeed the source of its strength:

> **This refusal to tolerate discrimination or exclusion is one basic reason why these industrial unions are strong, why they are able to undertake and carry through the gigantic task of organizing the unorganized. It is one basic reason why the CIO today has 4,000,000 members in the major industries of America.**
>
> **No craft union that practices discrimination has ever got more than a fingerhold in modern mass production industry. As a result, the wages and working conditions of both Negro and white workers suffered . . until the CIO started to organize on the new, democratic policy. The craft union policy of exclusion has cost American workers, both white and Negro, uncountable gains in better wages and shorter hours, in lost opportunity through the years.**

SO there you have it. For years our leaders have been yelling about a chance in organized labor for the black worker. He has it now in the CIO. But my feeling is that most of the Negro leaders (with conspicuous and commendable exceptions) have not realized, or refuse to realize, the CIO is the Negroes' golden opportunity . . that it is the most important thing that has happened to Negroes since the Emancipation. (These are strong words, but I believe they are true.)

SEP 20 1941

GET CIO PAMPHLET

The reason for the fact that many Negro leaders have failed to appreciate the value to the Negro of the CIO is, in my opinion, for the most part due to their lack of understanding of the movement itself. So now I can get back to where I started: that is, with the CIO pamphlet. Personally, I am going to mail out a number of copies to the people who have been bothering me about why I think the CIO is a good organization. I would advise any others in the general reading public to send to the Congress of Industrial Organization, 1106 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C., for a copy to see if it convinces you as well as it did me.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

The Most Important Task Ahead

OCT 1 1941

THE most important task ahead of America's largest racial minority is the training and marketing of skilled labor. Recent developments disclose a lack of men and women qualified in skills, a lack which reveals a huge disproportion between common or unskilled labor and trained craftsmen. Opportunities for the employment of skilled workmen obtained through the pressure of public sentiment have been lost because we just did not have the men.

There are several reasons why we do not have a large reservoir of skilled mechanics. For some of these we are to blame. The trend in education during the past two or three decades has been away from training for technical pursuits. Our industrial or technical schools have been too poorly equipped in training facilities and instructors to turn out acceptable craftsmen. This in itself has turned the attention of ambitious youths towards the fields of education, business and the professions. For this situation we are responsible. A more important reason however, and one for which we are not responsible is the trade union movement, which has to a very large degree controlled the apprentice system. Under this system, which holds the key to employment in industry, there has been practically no opportunity for our youths to avail themselves of the training. They have been shut out of apprenticeship training in the building trades and in the various other brackets of industry which call for trained mechanics.

Even before our armament building emergency arose some of our more important trade schools had sensed the need to revamp their educational programs and to reinvigorate their facilities for training. Effective vocational guidance is strengthening this movement. But there is still the problem of finding ways to integrate Negro youths for training and Negro craftsmen for employment through the trade union movement. This movement is undoubtedly as surefooted today as anything in American life. It is here to stay and its influence will grow. The most important thing for Negro leadership in America to do now is to find ways and means of making our people an acceptable part of the trade union movement in industry.

To be assured of security in the future workers must be trained in the skills and techniques of a highly mechanized industrial order. Even the common tasks now requiring unskilled hands are being mechanized, and in every form of employment brains will be a more important factor than brawn. If we fail to heed the signs of the times our opportunities for gainful employment will progressively diminish.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

General Motors

WHEN BETTER BUICKS ARE BUILT, WE SHOULD BE IN THERE BUILDING THEM

SEP 20 194

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

GENERAL MOTORS, makers of Cadillacs, Buicks, Oldsmobiles, Chevrolets, and also the owners of the Frigidaire, have not established a fair policy towards colored people. At this very moment, Agencies of the Federal Government are taking, that is, according to the pronouncement of one Agency, "necessary steps" to have General Motors eliminate racial discrimination. General Motors, now having a fat share of Defense Contracts, and its president, Knudsen, now being a big shot in the Office of Production Management, can be influenced to some extent in its policies of employment by the Government, who has let the contracts and is paying for work done and goods manufactured with the tax payers' money. It is indeed fitting and expedient that the Government do this, but it is a reflection upon the sagacity, the intelligence and the courage of thirteen million colored people in America that the Government has been compelled to assume this duty.

Mr. Bibb

WE MUFFED THE BALL

It is self-evident that colored people should have declared war on this great concern years and years ago. General Motors should have been bombed and blasted in its pocket book, which is the Achilles heel in the white man's industrial system. Had courageous, alert race leaders, and fearless, unmuzzled newspapers been on the job and flooded the country with revelations and disclosures of G. M. C.'s refusal to employ dark skinned labor, we feel sure that there would not be so many purring Cadillacs, "better built Buicks," flashing Oldsmobiles, and gleaming Chevrolets zooming along the streets and highways owned and piloted by the Sons of Ham.

IT seems that the criticism and attack upon the union-labor policies at the Ford Company, by colored people, was directed with poor timing and understanding. Ford has always employed colored people and his policy has been, to say the least, liberal. Labor leaders will say that entrance into various automobile workers' unions would have been the correct entree for the colored worker into the General Motors plants, but that has nothing to do with the racial policy and attitude of the company.

FORD HAS BEEN FAIR

Henry Ford has been fair in his racial relations with us. General Motors has not. Henry Ford should be patronized by us. General Motors should not. The stockholders of General Motors, who are in many instances, members of the Jewish race, should have been bombarded with information concerning the discriminatory policies of this company.

THE Jewish people, who dislike Ford, and have not been lavish in patronizing him, should be brought face to face with the drab realization that other people who "do it to one of the least of us, do it also to them." The Jewish people, we believe, would be by force of necessity compelled to level their guns against the policies in General Motors—that smack of Hitler, Rankin and Talmadge.

JEWS KNOW VALUE OF PROPAGANDA

Propaganda is one of the most powerful weapons in the world today. Fighting forces in Europe are showering their enemies with leaflets, which is a poignant and forceful form of propaganda. We have that same weapon in America, but we don't know how to use it. We have no organized, centralized institutes of propaganda like the Anti-Defamation League, which butressed and fortressed by millions of Jewish dollars, defends and protects the good name of Jewish people and stamps out discriminatory policies with startling despatch. We do have instrumentalities for propaganda like the newspapers, which we do not adequately support. Here, however, is one of our strongest instrumentalities. We should use it against General Motors.

THE other lethal weapon that we control is our buying power. We put dividend checks into the pockets of stockholders. We have the financial strength to boycott business that discriminates against us. We don't have to buy Buicks and the other General Motors products that catch our fancy. We don't have to accept such venal policies as emanate from G. M. C. headquarters in New York and permeate into its every subsidiary in the nation. We thank the Government but we have a job to do ourselves. When "Better Buicks Are Built" we should be in their building with them. We should tell General Motors as the Chinese laundry man declares: "No tickee! Then, no washee."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FEPC NEEDS POWER

DICKERSON AGREES TO NEED OF LEGISLATIVE POWER TO MAKE WORK EFFECTIVE

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

LAST Sunday, the National Negro March-On-Washington Committee made a "Report to the Nation" on the activities of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. I was pleased, but a little disappointed in the meeting. As I stated last week, I am all in favor of the committee and feel that its creation was an important and momentous event for the Negro. I don't agree with Milton Webster, however, that it is the greatest thing since the Emancipation Proclamation. I didn't agree with A. Philip Randolph when he spoke in Houston and elaborated on the multitude of jobs and new opportunities that this committee would bring and was glad that he was much more modest about the possibilities of the committee at the meeting last Sunday. As a matter of fact, the two members of the committee who spoke, Webster and Dickerson, were very realistic about the committee and its possibilities. The only measurable gains which Webster claimed were that the association of personnel agents in government service had cooperated with the committee in getting the President to sign a letter condemning racial discrimination in Federal service and the obtaining permission from the Civil Service Commission to examine its lists and appointment procedures. There was no doubt that, as Webster stated, the committee's appointment had brought the whole problem of racial discrimination in the defense agencies to the public eye and had thereby caused the hiring of numbers of Negro workers.

Mr. Cayton

FEP NEEDS LEGAL POWER

But these gains, real and important as they are, are peanuts to what we need. Webster stated that there were plenty of firms that would say they were not going to hire Negroes regardless. It is my opinion, Dickerson made the best and most realistic analysis of the situation. Although stating that he thought there was much that the committee could do, he felt that until the committee had teeth, that is, power to enforce its findings through legislative action, it could not get at the fundamental problem.

OCT 11 1941

THIS has been my point all along and I am glad that a member of the committee sees eye to eye with me on it. Dickerson is to be commended by courageously stating that we should realize that the committee has limitations but that we should, nevertheless, exploit all of its possibilities and should build up sentiment for a more powerful group. Many Negro leaders would have continued to give the Negro public a song and dance about how the committee would solve everything simply to enhance their own prestige.

Some of the speakers, especially Lester Granger and Charles Burton (the chairman of the meeting) I thought, injected a little "we knew we were right in the first place" spirit. I thought that they might have patterned after Randolph in his modesty. Lots of people disagreed with various aspects of the program. I criticized the manner in which it was called off, but that doesn't mean anything is to be gained by saying I told you so now.

PRAISES RANDOLPH AND DICKERSON

I think on the positive side that we have now developed a group of militant leaders with a definite program and head and shoulders above them stand Dickerson and Randolph. Dickerson in the political field can give the type of leadership that the subservant wheelhorse Republicans could never produce. Conversant as he is with the fundamental social and economic problems facing the Negro he can work hand in hand with Randolph in the trade union field. Randolph has insight, courage and long experience. Rather than sinking into oblivion after his break with the Negro Congress he has taken a more important role as a leader than ever.

THERE is just one thing that bothers me about Randolph as a mass leader. The Brotherhood of Pullman Porters has become the aristocrats of organized Negro labor. They are a good organization but since their struggle many thousands of Negroes have become identified both with the CIO and the AF of L who need leadership What is really needed is a great mass movement. I am not sure that the officers and functionaries of the Brotherhood will be able and willing to forget their favored position; their occasional antagonism to the CIO; the fact that they were the first important group to be organized; and weilded into one fighting mass, the bulk of Black America.

35g-1941
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

GENERAL

U. S. Hires 3,000 New Workers Monthly But Bars Negroes, Says Negro Congress In Call

APR 5 - 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—According to Civil Service records, the Federal Government took on 3,000 new workers last month, but despite the fact that 65 out of every 100 Negroes on WPA were fired during the past year, Negroes have been barred from these jobs, the National Negro Congress declared in a statement issued on Monday.

APR 5 - 1941

The statement was contained in a "Call" sent out this week by the Congress to organize in Washington and Baltimore, urging them to send delegates to a job conference to be held in Baltimore at the Elks Auditorium, McMechen street and Madison avenue Sunday, April 27. The conference will be held in connection with the Congress's campaign to open up 7,000 jobs for Negroes at the Glenn L. Martin aircraft plant at Middle River, Maryland.

Pointing out that the Martin plant, with 322 million dollars in Government contracts, stands as a "symbol of the action of the Federal Government and private industry to bar Negroes from the right to earn a living," the statement said:

APR 5 - 1941

"Let us unite to win for the Negro people the 7,000 jobs they are entitled to at the Glenn L. Martin plant. Let us bring the white heat of public opinion to bear on the Federal Government and this giant company now growing fat off the profits which come from the tax money of all Americans. For victory at Glenn Martins means a mighty blow against jim-crowism in private and public employment everywhere. For when thousands of competent Negro workers draw their first pay check at Glenn Martin's we shall have won a victory for American democracy."

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

JEFFERSON FARMERS BACK FIGHT AGAINST WAGE DIFFERENTIAL

APR 17 1941

"The wage differential whereby manufacturers pay wage workers in steel, coal and textiles less in the South for the same work than they pay in the North is a hold-over from chattel slavery," W. H. Cremeans, ex-coal miner told the Jefferson County Convention of the Alabama Farmers' Union at Kimberly last Saturday. Nearly every farmer present had himself, been a coal miner.

"The idea of slavery is still maintained in the South," he said. "The manufacturers want cheap cotton and that's one of the reasons. The other reason is they wish to keep slave conditions on the Southern farms so they can pay low wages in Southern industry. This they do.

APR 17 1941

"The industrialists protect their Northern industries from the competition of cheap Southern labor and farm products with high freight rates," Mr. Cremeans explained further. "So when goods made here get up North they are just as good and bring the same prices as Northern manufactured goods bring. The increased freight rates necessary to protect the Northern markets also go into the pockets of the big industrialists," he said.

APR 17 1941

"Before organized labor came on the scene this vicious and inexcusable wage differential was not attacked. It is a problem for both the farmers and wage workers to understand and to solve."

"If I am old and did not squander or waste my wages and am now having to do without, it is because I did not get fair wages in the first place," he said. "I worked in the mines for a dollar and a half a day. The way to take care of old people is make present wage increases retroactive and pay us off for the work we already have done and did not get paid for."

POLL TAX CAUSE

The poll tax is the direct cause of our condition," Mr. Cremeans said. About 25 per cent of the people of Alabama voted in the last election. I suggest that the 75 per cent that did not vote set up their own election machinery, elect a governor and legislature and a congressman to show actually what the people's choice is. The winners in such an election will be the real representatives of the people. A congressman elected under poll tax conditions represents only those people who vote for him. He does not by any means represent the majority."

Mr. Cremeans emphasized the need for citizens to take part in their own government, to know and to understand the people's business. They are capable. "I admire Hugo Black," he said. "He is a great progressive but his judgment about what the constitution means is no better than that of any other man who understands the constitution."

APR 17 1941

NEED TO ORGANIZE

George Campbell, of Etowah County, state organizer for the Farmers' Union, addressed the convention. "We are going to have to better our own conditions and we had better get at it," said Mr Campbell. "The need of the farmer is to organize."

The two means of improving the farmer's condition mentioned by Mr. Campbell were: (1) organize the farmers; (2) keep the farmers closely in touch with the wage workers.

"I feel The Southern News Almanac is the best means of getting information out that will enable the farmers to organize," he said. He urged the farmers to write their views to the paper, in order that other farmers may have the benefit of them.

"We are on the big side in numbers," Mr. Campbell said, "and we must organize and work together to get what is coming to us."

APR 17 1941

Gerald Harris, secretary of the state organizing committee, addressed the convention and said: "The farmers are being kept and exploited like cattle. But one difference between cows and men," Mr. Harris said, "is that cows cannot organize and men can."

Mr. Campbell urged that the various locals in the county put on a drive to collect dues and get their organizations set up and active. Secretaries of several locals who were present issued cards to several who paid their dues and renewed their membership.

The next meeting of the County Convention will be held on the second Saturday in May, with the Newt Gresham Local of Birmingham as hosts, at the office of the Southern News Almanac, 219 North 23rd Street.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

State Employment Offices Place 76,000 Negroes On Jobs In Month

APR 18 1941

WASHINGTON. — Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt this week announced that more than 76,000 Negro workers found jobs in January through the nation-wide chain of state employment offices coordinated by the United States employment service According to Mr. McNutt, Negro placements for January accounted for 21.1 percent of all the jobs filled by the state employment services—an increase of more than ~~10 percent~~ over December, 1940.

59

"The expansion of defense industries is undoubtedly responsible in large part for the increased demand for Negro workers," Mr. McNutt said. Indicative of the trend toward greater job opportunities for Negroes is the fact that in January Negro male workers—placed in jobs—outnumbered female workers by more than 10,000. Usually, placements of women predominate in many states because of the number employed in domestic service.

In some instances—according to statistics gathered by the Bureau of Employment Security—the increase in the placement of Negro male workers showed a growing demand for such labor in defense production. In other instances, Negro industrial workers are filling jobs made vacant as a result of the movement of other workers to defense industries.

More jobs were available for male than for female workers in New Hampshire, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas. In Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Louisiana, more than 50 percent of all the placements in January were of Negro workers.

APR 18 1941

Calling attention to specific examples of job opportunities arising out of national defense, Paul V. McNutt pointed out that in the shipbuilding industry on the Middle Atlantic Seaboard, Negro workers are being employed in many plants as bolters, riveters, heaters, catchers, wood caulkers, acetylene burner operators, riggers, and mechanists. Many of these occupations are those on which Negro workers were so successfully employed in 1917 and 1918.

In Louisiana, according to the Louisiana State Employment service, many unskilled and some skilled Negro workers have been placed on jobs constructing cantonments. And in Nashville, Tenn., of more than 200 Negro moulders registered a year ago with the Nashville state employment office, almost all have been placed in jobs.

APR 18 1941

"As the national defense program continues, increasing opportunities can be expected for Negro workers," Mr. McNutt said. Pointing out that the 1,500 full-time and 3,000 part-time state employment offices joined together by the United States employment service constituted the defense agency for matching men and jobs, the Federal Security Administrator urged those looking for work to use the facilities of their local office.

He particularly warned workers against leaving their homes in search of rumored jobs in other areas before first checking with their local state employment office to find out whether job opportunities are available for workers with their particular qualifications. Each local state employment office, he said, knows or can quickly find out how many and what kind of workers are needed in other localities.

APR 18 1941

It can refer workers to jobs in any part of the country where there is a need for people with their qualifications. "Check with your local state employment office before you travel," he said, "and you will save yourself needless waste of time and money, as well as probable failure to land the desired job."

News
Birmingham, Ala

STEEL DROP SEEN, DUE TO COAL LACK

APR 29 1941

Output Fall This Week Put At 88,683 Tons

NEW YORK, April 28—(AP)—Because of the coal mine shutdown, the blast furnaces of America will produce 88,683 less tons of steel this week than they did a month ago, the American Iron & Steel Institute estimated Monday.

It announced a mill production rate of 94.3 per cent of capacity, a decline of 1.7 points from last week, and compared with operations at 99.8 per cent of capacity during the week of March 24.

In that peak week, under the terrific pressure caused by national defense contracts, furnaces produced 1,610,583 tons of steel. This week, with the backlog of defense orders even below, only 1,521,900 are looked for.

APR 29 1941

Lack of soft coal and its by-product, coke, has caused a shutdown of more than 20 blast furnaces. Steel men say it will be some time before they can be put to work again, even after the coal miners go back to work. At the same time, it was said, many cold blast furnaces now are being repaired and enlarged in preparation for the resumption of high-pressure work.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn

TIP—OR ELSE

"TO INSURE PROMPTNESS" are said to be the three words that have been abbreviated to "TIP."

Patrons of hotels more than anybody else, know that they must tip not only to "insure promptness" but to insure much of the other service for which they pay hotel managements.

Hotel patrons have for so long realized that it is impossible to be a wholly acceptable guest at a hotel without tipping that, notwithstanding the injustice of the "extra assessment," they have very generally adopted the tipping habit.

It is only lately, however, that hotel patrons and the general public have had their eyes opened to the evil to which tipping has [illegible]d. Grasping hotel managements ha[illegible] "banked on" tipping to such an extent that they hire workers and virtually make these workers pay a "franchise tax" for the privilege of having a job that will give them a chance to get tips from the public. And the so-called "salary" that the hotels pay certain workers, who get a chance to pick up tips, is an outrage, being several times smaller than the "franchise tax" which the tip-receiving workers must pay. This "franchise tax" is used by the hotel management to provide a salary for other workers who supervise those getting tips.

The almost exclusive cash business that hotels do, together with the very big charge they make for hotel service, most certainly makes hotels institutions that should come under some kind of regulation as positive and exacting as the Federal Wage and Hour law. There are few business concerns running which can more profitably operate under a wage and hour law than hotels.

MAY 6 1941

It would be a very fine thing if Congress, with the courts co-operating, could bring hotels under federal supervision. The welfare of both the public and hotel workers requires that hotels be made to pursue a more ethical and humane business policy than is now the case, if we are to believe recent complaints workers have made about their wages and hours of employment.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Says F. B. I. Employs Negroes

353

In answer to an inquiry by the N. A. A. C. P., J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (G-Men) of the Department of Justice, writes stating:

"Please be advised that this Bureau has no ban on the employment of Negroes, and, as a matter of fact, there are a number of Negroes in the employ of this Bureau at the present time. With regard to your question as to the positions in which these persons are employed you are advised that they are employed in both investigative and clerical capacities."

AUG 2 1941

AUG 2 1941

35g-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Red Cap Victory In Railroad Controversy May Benefit 900,000 Dependent On Tips For Wages

AUG 16 1941

U.S. Senate to Decide Whether Present System of Pay Complies With Federal Wage-Hour Act.

AUG 16 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 14. (ANP)—The U.S. Senate last week resolved to make another effort to settle the question of whether tips given redcaps at railroad stations and terminals are wages and whether the present system of paying these attendants complies with the Federal Wage-Hour act.

There are some 6,000 redcaps in the country and their official labor organization is headed by Willard S. Townsend of Chicago as president. It is also estimated that there are nearly 900,000 other attendants—waiters, porters, maids, etc., mostly Negroes—whose income is mainly derived from tips. To all these workers, settlement of the controversy is of the utmost importance.

As a result of the Senate action, the Federal Wage and Hour division is holding a series of hearings, considering the question from every angle. Before the Wage-Hour act was passed, redcaps derived their sole income from the tips given them by the traveling public. The terminals paid them no salary and redcaps were compelled to buy their own uniforms and maintain them at their own expense.

AUG 16 1941

After the Wage-Hour act became effective, the terminal companies required redcaps to keep an account of all tips received, the companies to pay them the diffirence if the total received by the redcaps was less than the minimum wage guaranteed under the Wage-Hour act.

Since last April 14 the terminals have carried redcaps on the payroll, paid them in cash the minimum required by the law. On their part, the redcaps are required to collect 10 cents a bag from each traveler and turn this in to the company.

AUG 16 1941

Showing how the present system works to the advantage of the terminal companies, Washington redcaps declare that in the first five and one-half months of the plan they collected $94,677, but the company paid out in wages enly $71,700, a gross profit to the company of $4,159 a month. The company, however, says the net profit was only $2,718 a month.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Figures Show Small Percent In Skilled Jobs

McNutt In Reply To N. A. A. C. P.

NEW YORK (SNS)—Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt, in reply to a request from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for an occupational breakdown of Negro placements, called attention to the fact that although the largest of non-white placements were Negroes, "an undertermined part were of other races, especially in California.

SEP 4 1941

In Hawaii only 12 of the 4,039 non-white placements were of Negroes," said Mr. McNutt.

The NAACP request was made after the Federal Security Agency issued a release stating that placements of Negroes increased above placements of all other persons The total Negro placements from January to May, 1941 was put at 414,595.

The breakdown noted that non-white persons were placed in jobs as follows:

Professional and managerial, 219, or one-tenth percent.

Clerical and sales, 2,366, or six-tenths percent.

Service, 242,049, or 58.3 percent.

Agriculture, fishery and forestry, 17, 681, or 4.3 percent.

Skilled, 7,054, or 1.7 percent.

Semiskilled, 15,440, or 3.7 percent.

Unskilled, 129,784, or 31.3 percent.

Unspecified, 2 percent.

The figures show that of a total of 414,595 placements 371,833 or 89.6 percent are service or unskilled jobs; only 7,054 or 1.7 percent are skilled, and only 15,440 or 3.7 percent are semiskilled occupations.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FDR'S CIVIL

P. O. PROMOTIONS TO HIGHER POSITIONS NOW OPEN TO ALL

SEP 20 1941

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18—(ANP)— The newest executive order of President Roosevelt banning discriminations in jobs in the Federal civil service, is a "gift from heaven" to the Negro postal workers. This order is the climax of many years of intensive effort on the part of Negro organizations and crusading individuals, some of whom took long chances, in order to bring proper attention to bear upon the cases which caused the complaints to arise. And it marks another step on the part of President Roosevelt to improve national harmony, and create a real practice of genuine democracy within the Government itself.

For the postal workers it means that no longer will the policy of declining to promote Negro clerks to foremanships and higher supervisory jobs be followed; no longer will railway mail lines be staffed by "white" clerks in charge, for F.D.R.'s orders affects all branches of the civil service, as outlined in his executive order sent to every department head from the temporary White House at Hyde Park last Saturday night.

PROTEST BRINGS PROBE

The most recent moves came to President Roosevelt's attention through the forceful presentation of the "New Orleans Postoffice" and the "Charlotte Letter Carrier" cases, each of which created quite a nationwide resentment over the policy of subordinate appointing officers who refused to appoint Negroes as clerks and carriers, as in New Orleans and Charlotte, respectively. In the latter case, during 1940 a sensational FBI Civil Service-Postoffice investigation took place, resulting in the indictment of Lieut. Col. Paul Youts, white, Charlotte postmaster, and several other whites by a Federal grand jury at Asheville, N. C., Monday, August 25. Youts, at present, is free under a $2,000 bond for trial in October.

In the case at Charlotte both Elks and Shriners in grand lodge and imperial council sessions memorialized President Roosevelt, asking him to end the discriminatory practices of postmasters and others in the Federal civil service.

In the New Orleans case, Postmaster Joseph Ferguson refused to give seven Negroes opportunity to take non-competitive examinations for postoffice clerks, after they had served for three or more years as "laborers," after receiving such appointment from having taken the clerk-carrier examinatiens. Two of these made 100 per cent on the mail sorting tests.

ELKS CONFAB ORDERED ACTION

This case was memorialized to President Roosevelt by the New Orleans branch of the N.A.P.E. and other national bodies, including the N.A.P.E. itself and the N.A.A.C.P. Recently at Atlantic City, N. J., the Elks grand lodge again went on record against the New Orleans treamtent and ordered its Civil Liberties department to take drastic action.

By these, and numerous other instances, the heart of a great American President was touched, and on Saturday night came his historic order. This is the sort of action which former Vice President John N. Garner had declared would end these complaints, and it fundamentally provides the very effect desired in the Arthur Mitchell bill, H. R. 3691, to make appointing officers appoint civil service employes as their names are reached on the list.

35g-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Red Cap Victory In Railroad Controversy May Benefit 900,000 Dependent On Tips For Wages

AUG 16 1941

U.S. Senate to Decide Whether Present System of Pay Complies With Federal Wage-Hour Act.

AUG 16 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 14. (ANP)—The U.S. Senate last week resolved to make another effort to settle the question of whether tips given redcaps at railroad stations and terminals are wages and whether the present system of paying these attendants complies with the Federal Wage-Hour act.

There are some 6,000 redcaps in the country and their official labor organization is headed by Willard S. Townsend of Chicago as president. It is also estimated that there are nearly 900,000 other attendants—waiters, porters, maids, etc., mostly Negroes—whose income is mainly derived from tips. To all these workers, settlement of the controversy is of the utmost importance.

As a result of the Senate action, the Federal Wage and Hour division is holding a series of hearings, considering the question from every angle. Before the Wage-Hour act was passed, redcaps derived their sole income from the tips given them by the traveling public. The terminals paid them no salary and redcaps were compelled to buy their own uniforms and maintain them at their own expense.

AUG 16 1941

After the Wage-Hour act became effective, the terminal companies required redcaps to keep an account of all tips received, the companies to pay them the diffirence if the total received by the redcaps was less than the minimum wage guaranteed under the Wage-Hour act.

Since last April 14 the terminals have carried redcaps on the payroll, paid them in cash the minimum required by the law. On their part, the redcaps are required to collect 10 cents a bag from each traveler and turn this in to the company.

AUG 16 1941

Showing how the present system works to the advantage of the terminal companies, Washington redcaps declare that in the first five and one-half months of the plan they collected $94,677, but the company paid out in wages enly $71,700, a gross profit to the company of $4,159 a month. The company, however, says the net profit was only $2,718 a month.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Figures Show Small Percent In Skilled Jobs

McNutt In Reply To N. A. A. C. P.

35

Gen

NEW YORK (SNS)—Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt, in reply to a request from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for an occupational breakdown of Negro placements, called attention to the fact that although the largest of non-white placements were Negroes, "an undertermined part were of other races, especially in California.

SEP 24 1941

In Hawaii only 12 of the 4,039 non-white placements were of Negroes," said Mr. McNutt.

The NAACP request was made after the Federal Security Agency issued a release stating that placements of Negroes increased above placements of all other persons The total Negro placements from January to May, 1941 was put at 414,595.

The breakdown noted that non-white persons were placed in jobs as follows:

Professional and managerial, 219, or one-tenth percent.

Clerical and sales, 2,366, or six-tenths percent.

Service, 242,049, or 58.3 percent.

Agriculture, fishery and forestry, 17, 681, or 4.3 percent.

Skilled, 7,054, or 1.7 percent.

Semiskilled, 15,440, or 3.7 percent.

Unskilled, 129,784, or 31.3 percent.

Unspecified, 2 percent.

The figures show that of a total of 414,595 placements 371,833 or 89.6 percent are service or unskilled jobs; only 7,054 or 1.7 percent are skilled, and only 15,440 or 3.7 percent are semiskilled occupations.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FDR'S CIVIL

P. O. PROMOTIONS TO HIGHER POSITIONS NOW OPEN TO ALL

SEP 20 1941

35

Gen

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18—(ANP)— The newest executive order of President Roosevelt banning discriminations in jobs in the Federal civil service, is a "gift from heaven" to the Negro postal workers. This order is the climax of many years of intensive effort on the part of Negro organizations and crusading individuals, some of whom took long chances, in order to bring proper attention to bear upon the cases which caused the complaints to arise. And it marks another step on the part of President Roosevelt to improve national harmony, and create a real practice of genuine democracy within the Government itself.

For the postal workers it means that no longer will the policy of declining to promote Negro clerks to foremanships and higher supervisory jobs be followed; no longer will railway mail lines be staffed by "white" clerks in charge, for F.D.R.'s orders affects all branches of the civil service, as outlined in his executive order sent to every department head from the temporary White House at Hyde Park last Saturday night.

PROTEST BRINGS PROBE

The most recent moves came to President Roosevelt's attention through the forceful presentation of the "New Orleans Postoffice" and the "Charlotte Letter Carrier" cases, each of which created quite a nationwide resentment over the policy of subordinate appointing officers who refused to appoint Negroes as clerks and carriers, as in New Orleans and Charlotte, respectively. In the latter case, during 1940 a sensational FBI Civil Service-Postoffice investigation took place, resulting in the indictment of Lieut. Col. Paul Youts, white, Charlotte postmaster, and several other whites by a Federal grand jury at Asheville, N. C., Monday, August 25. Youts, at present, is free under a $2,000 bond for trial in October.

In the case at Charlotte both Elks and Shriners in grand lodge and imperial council sessions memorialized President Roosevelt, asking him to end the discriminatory practices of postmasters and others in the Federal civil service.

In the New Orleans case, Postmaster Joseph Ferguson refused to give seven Negroes opportunity to take non-competitive examinations for postoffice clerks, after they had served for three or more years as "laborers," after receiving such appointment from having taken the clerk-carrier examinatiens. Two of these made 100 per cent on the mail sorting tests.

ELKS CONFAB ORDERED ACTION

This case was memorialized to President Roosevelt by the New Orleans branch of the N.A.P.E. and other national bodies, including the N.A.P.E. itself and the N.A.A.C.P. Recently at Atlantic City, N. J., the Elks grand lodge again went on record against the New Orleans treamtent and ordered its Civil

Liberties department to take drastic action.

By these and numerous other instances, the heart of a great American President was touched, and on Saturday night came his historic order. This is the sort of action which former Vice President John N. Garner had declared would end these complaints, and it fundamentally provides the very effect desired in the Arthur Mitchell bill, H. R. 3691, to make appointing officers appoint civil service employes as their names are reached on the list.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

INDUSTRY AND LABOR

SEP 14 1941

By GEORGE McCRAY for ANP

The Labor Day messages of President Roosevelt and also of the two great houses of labor, the A. F. L., C. I. O., and many independent unions entirely omitted the problem of the Negro worker as such.

This happened after months of agitation about discrimination against Negroes in unions and defense industries. The question is: Why did President Roosevelt, Phil Murray, and William Green let pass the opportunity to focus public attention upon the problems of the Negro worker when the whole nation is labor conscious at least for one day?

Why was there no summary statement of the problems of the Negro worker, the progress being made in settling these problems and a plea to the country to accord the Negro worker fair and equal treatment? The answer:

Negro labor leaders, so far as I have been able to find out not only failed to ask Roosevelt, Murray and Green to include us in their Labor Day message but forgot to make the statements themselves.

Thus we failed to take advantage of an excellent opportunity to strike another blow for the economic advancement of the Negro worker.

This oversight is a concrete example of the weakness present in the work being done by Negroes in the labor movement. First, no one leader or official feels he has authority to speak for Negro labor as a group. Hence nobody says or does anything until a situation is forced upon him.

Second, there are absolutely no channels through which Negro labor leaders in C. I. O. and A. F. L. and unaffiliated unions can readily get together, and work out a policy on the problems that concerns Negroes particularly. One hears frequently: "We should have done something about that, but its too late now."

SEP 14 1941

Third, Negro labor leaders do not seem to realize the need to maintain a constant, friendly and cooperative contact, not only with each other, but with union officials and leaders in order to keep the latter informed and also to see that they act promptly and satisfactorily on all situations where their support is needed.

Of course for such work to be carried on as an organized activity instead of as a loose slipshod affair, a strong Negro labor council must be built. Such a council will find a place waiting for it among such organizations as the Association of Catholics in Trade Unions, the United Hebrew Trades Council, and other organizations whose constituents know that fine principles and rules work best when an active body protects them.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RANDOLPH ON TOUR FOR RACE FIREMEN

SEP 20 1941

NEW YORK, Sept. 18—With a series of meetings in Birmingham, Ala., under the auspices of the Provisional Committee to Organize Colored Locomotive Firemen, a campaign to step up the organization of colored locomotive firemen will begin. The program of organization will be carried on by A. Philip Randolph and M. P. Webster, internatnonal officials of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car porters. Following their stay in Birmingham, they will go to Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah.

The problem of colored locomotive firemen maintaining their jobs on Southern railroads is becoming more difficult as the weeks go by. From all sections, information comes of the continuous displacement of colored firemen of high seniority positions by junior white firemen upon the introduction of the Diesel engines. It is against this situation that bids fair to eliminate all colored locomotive firement from roads in the South that the Provisional Committee for the Organization of Colored Locomotive Frimen is waging its fight.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Trial Balloon

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO HAVE POWER INCREASED

OCT 4 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

I THINK that some of my friends have misunderstood the criticism which I have been making of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. To get the record straight let me say now that I am all for the Committee and any possible good that it can do. Further, I believe that it certainly represents a step forward for the Negro.

As to the personnel I think they are just what I've called them—bright young people. Take Earl B. Dickerson for example, Dickerson is certainly a phenomenon in Negro politics. Young, liberal, intelligent and thoroughly conversant with social and economic problems, I doubt if a Negro leader has appeared on the national scene to equal him in ability for years.

Mr. Cayton

Milton Webster represents a trade union point of view which is unusual to find among Negro leaders. Truman K. Gibson, Jr., assistant to Lawrence Cramer, equals in ability and integrity the highest type of civil servant, similar to those produced in England, (there is a difference between English civil servants and American service employes and the difference is in the Englishman's favor).

OCT 4 1941

NOT ENOUGH POWER

I DIDN'T say that I was against the Committee or didn't have full confidence in its personnel. What I said was that the Committee just didn't have enough power. Again that doesn't mean that what it does will not be helpful—it simply means that I don't think that the committee's existence should keep Negroes from asking for more; i. e., a real committee with power and teeth to enforce its finding.

There are precedents which justify my feeling that pressure should be continued for a more powerful body. During the recent NRA period there was the threat of a serious strike in the steel industry. After some dispute between the members of the steel workers union and the American Iron and Steel Institute both sides agreed to accept the president's suggestion that the case be handled by a Steel Labor Relations Board which was created by Executive Order on June 28, 1934.

STEEL BOARD FAILED

THE Steel Labor Relations Board heard a number of minor cases and was able to bring about some adjustment in some of them but in the larger cases, when it came into a conflict with Little Steel, the board was totally ineffective.

This body, which had received the whole-hearted support of William Green and the national officers of the steel union, failed us utterly and primarily for the same reason as had the National Labor Board—another stop-gap jesture of the president.

OCT 4 1941

It settled a number of minor difficulties and averted some plant strikes but it was not able to grapple successfully with the major problems of the industry. Much time, valuable to labor, was lost when the board refrained from forcing elections to determine for the workers the unions of their own choice.

The Federal Administration was reluctant to precipitate a labor struggle in steel for fear that it would increase unemployment. The failure of the board and the real source of its ineffectiveness was its lack of power, under the existing laws, to enforce its decisions.

JUST A TRIAL BALLOON

THE moral of this little story is, of course, obvio[illegible] to you by this time. In my opinion the President would like to have Negroes integrated into the Defense Industries just as he really wanted to have steel workers organized in the NRA days. The President does not, however, want to take any chance on upsetting the Defense Program by forcing the employment of Negroes just as he was unwilling (at the time I spoke of) to force the organization of steel workers as he thought it might delay the NRA program.

In that instance, he sent up a trial balloon in the form of the Steel Labor Relations Board to see what the reaction to it would be but kept the board virtually powerless so it could be controlled. When this effort, along with the whole NRA program, failed, he then supported legislation which had teeth enough to force through the organization of laborers in legitimate unions.

OCT

NEED TO SHOW PRESIDENT

IN regard to our problem the President has again sent up a trial balloon in the form of the Fair Employment Practices Committee. Again he has failed to give such a committee power for fear that it might be a disruptive force in our effort to marshalling our economic strength. What we've got to do is to show the President that this need not necessarily be true (just as it was not in the case of the organization of steel workers) and that we will be satisfied with nothing less than a real committee which will have the power to enforce its findings—that to integrate the Negro into the entire economic structure is the best possible move, economically and politically, in our fight against fascist Germany.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COURIER TO PROBE BIAS AT U.S. CAMP

SEP 27 1941

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 25—The Pacific Coast Offices of The Courier, late last week launched an investigation regarding complaints made by Negro soldiers stationed at Camp Haan, which is located near Riverside, California, concerning the inadequate Jim Crow recreational facilities assertedly in vogue there.

It is claimed that white soldiers at the camp have modern conveniences of this type which include reading rooms, pool tables, soft drink fountains and an ample recreation hall. While on the other hand, race draftees have a dinky out-of-the way place with equipment consisting of a combination phonograph and a single writing desk.

As yet no dances or camp entertainment have been provided for the Afro-Americans.

SEP 27 1941

Some time ago complaints had been made regarding the fact that Negro soldiers were being trained without the correct implements of warfare. Further, that there were other forms of segregation being practiced in general.

35g-1941 GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Going South

CIO TO LEAD VANGUARD TO WAKE THE SLEEPY SOUTH

DEC 13 1941

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

DEC 13 1941

PRESIDENT MURRAY of the CIO says that he will now lead his powerful labor organization into the South and will seek to unionize the laboring masses below the Mason-Dixon line. This powerful organization has not only already demonstrated that it is red-blooded and two-fisted but has also displayed fairness and liberality in dealing with colored workers. It draws no color line as does the American Federation of Labor. Some of its most powerful members are of the colored race and if it is able to awaken the slumbering and backward southland into a full understanding of its sorry state, a great service will be rendered to humanity.

Mr. Bibb

Let the CIO go south and may the grace of God go with it. Let it carry with it both Fire and Water. Fire to burn away and destroy the false Gods of bigotry and intolerance, and Water for a baptism of Truth.

WHITES ARRAYED AGAINST BLACKS

THE South needs to be awakened and enlightened. The pitiful white proletariat of the dark and dismal regions of the bourbon confines of Dixie has been kept alive on corn bread and cabbage but at the same time doped and duped into a silly state of importance by clever propaganda arraying him against his feeble black brother of toil. The exploitation of the poor white man of the south by the plantation owners, the industrialists and the politicians has been one of the greatest crimes of modern times. The CIO has a great and Herculean task mapped out and it can succeed, only, by getting the unfortunates of the south to understand and realize that the CIVIL WAR IS OVER.

DEC 13 1941

KEPT ALIVE BY FALSE LEADERS

Pegler and Lahey, famous columnists for great papers, early last week referred to the tragic fact that they are still fighting the Civil War down south. They still refer to the northerners as "damn Yankees" and in their hearts there still rankles the "Lost Cause." The Confederacy still lives in Dixie. It is kept alive by Governor Talmadge of Georgia, by Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida and Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina. They keep the poor, benigned sons of the south fighting the Civil War in order to keep them from fighting for themselves. If intelligence and class consciousness should ever invade the land of cotton, Talmadge could no more be Governor of Georgia than James Ford, the colored Communist, could be President of the United States.

THE poor white southerner thought that he was fighting the Civil War when his leaders fought the Child Labor Law, they thought of the Civil War when woman suffrage was proposed. They were told that the Wages and Hour Law, better known as the Wagner Act, would make the colored people their social equals. They have been deceived into fighting all progressive legislation by the injection of the color issue. They were told that colored people would get uppity if they were benefited by these new laws and that sooner or later they would rise up and seek 'intermarriage." The wicked and selfish spokesmen for the capitalistic classes cleverly and adroitly started them fighting the Civil War all over. They are doing that very thing right now as they tremble in their shoes at the thought of the CIO and its entree into the black bottoms of Dixie.

DEC 13 1941

OFFERS BRIGHT FUTURE TO SOUTH

If the CIO is able to go South and organize the workers of both races there will be an end to peonage, the crop lien system, the commissary system and all of the perfidious practices that have kept the workers in economic chains and ignorance. If the workers of the southland are ever organized and enlightened there will be no white primaries and poll tax laws. There would be less log cabins, fewer "Tobacco Roads" and no occasion for the Okies to find the "Grapes of Wrath" in California. Labor organizations like the CIO can no longer be driven from the southern states by the mere fact of branding them as being Communists, who are seeking to overthrow the government. The government is now fighting for the Communists in Russia and is busily engaged in sending aid to Joe Stalin. They can't pull that old gag and get away with it.

DEC 13 1941

NOW is the time for the labor organizers to go south and galvanize the southern workers into action. We hope that President Murray can figure out a way to carry square-jawed and straight-shooting John L. Lewis with him for Lewis is not afraid of the southern demagogues. The southern workers need the fires of intelligence to burn away their false gods and maybe the CIO can pull down these fires as Elijah did against the false prophets of Baal. They need to be baptized with Truth and Understanding. Lead on! Go South CIO.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Sissle Already on Tour

DEC 13 1941

By E. B. REA

BALTIMORE

The declaration of war against Japan and the rapid changes in military and civil circles won't affect present plans for the entertainment of soldiers in various army camps—not at the present time.

This information was officially presented the AFRO's theatrical department on Monday by Lawrence Phillips, director of publicity of United Service Organization (USO) Camp Shows, Inc., of New York.

Mr. Phillips's Reply

The AFRO, ever on the alert for latest developments in national and world events, contacted Mr. Phillips on Monday, asking: "Will declaration of war curtail army camp shows?"

DEC 13 1941

An immediate reply from Mr. Phillips brought the following answer: "Replying to your inquiry of today (Monday), do not contemplate curtailing army camp shows account of declaration of war."

Army Camp Shows, Inc., recently organized in New York, already has started several entertaining units, including one colored unit headed by Noble Sissle, noted orchestra leader, on rounds of camps throughout the country.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mitchell Hits Back At Labor Critics

DEC 13 1941

WASHINGTON, (ANP) — Declaring that his unqualified support of labor means the uncompromising opposition to labor racketeers, Cngressman Arthur W. Mitchell in the house Friday blasted the mine workers and the Workers Defense league. Under the latter's auspices, Mitchell was scheduled to speak in New York on December 4. But following a statement attributed to Mr. Mitchell in which the congressman urged Negro mine workers to stand by the government, Morris Milgram, secretary of the league, wired Mr. Mitchell cancelling his speaking engagement.

"We feel that you have betrayed labor's cause in calling upon Negro mine workers to act as strikebreakers," the telegram read. "We deplore also your advice to Negro miners if followed would set race against race, resulting in further discrimination against Negro workers. We agree thoroughly with criticism of your advice on United Mine Workers of America strike issued by President Willard Townsend of United Transport Service employes."

Mr. Mitchell followed with a letter in which he gave vent to his feelings:

DEC 13 1941

"Let me say to you here and now, I have no apology to make for any stand I have taken on any matter pertaining to labor. I have voted for every measure which came before congress during the past seven years for the benefit of labor. I am not so silly and so foolish to think that while my people are essentially a laboring people that labor organizations do not and have not made serious blunders. If calling attention to those blunders and asking my people to be loyal to this country provokes your organization, then you stand forever provoked.

"I know there are a great many racketeers who would like to see labor used exclusively as their tool. I wonder if you are not one. You have the same opinion as your friend Townsend who tried to run against me for congress, and with all the noise he could make, found less than 2,000 people in the city of Chicago who had confidence enough in his ability to vote for him.

"I am essentially a labor man—not a labor racketeer, and I shall speak and vote my sentiment as God gives me knowledge to know the fact and if it displeases men of your type, I say again: Forever stand displeased. The sooner we get rid of that type the better for those of us who believe in good citizenship and in fair play for labor and for all racial groups.

Mr. Mitchell then introduced into the Congressional Record for the second time, a list of AFL and railroad unions which discriminate against Negroes and at the same time introduced again his statement made in May, 1940, against John L. Lewis, whom he terms "the most dangerous outstanding leader in America today."

His charges are that Lewis is seeking a dictatorship in the United States with himself wielding the power and authority."

The congressman delcared he had been criticized by some of "our so-called labor leaders who smark under any requirements which they think are calculated to draw attention to their shortcomings."

35g-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Going South

CIO TO LEAD VANGUARD TO WAKE THE SLEEPY SOUTH

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

DEC 1 3 1941

PRESIDENT MURRAY of the CIO says that he will now lead his powerful labor organization into the South and will seek to unionize the laboring masses below the Mason-Dixon line. This powerful organization has not only already demonstrated that it is red-blooded and two-fisted but has also displayed fairness and liberality in dealing with colored workers. It draws no color line as does the American Federation of Labor. Some of its most powerful members are of the colored race and if it is able to awaken the slumbering and backward southland into a full understanding of its sorry state, a great service will be rendered to humanity.

Mr. Bibb

Let the CIO go south and may the grace of God go with it. Let it carry with it both Fire and Water. Fire to burn away and destroy the false Gods of bigotry and intolerance, and Water for a baptism of Truth.

WHITES ARRAYED AGAINST BLACKS

THE South needs to be awakened and enlightened. The pitiful white proletariat of the dark and dismal regions of the bourbon confines of Dixie has been kept alive on corn bread and cabbage but at the same time doped and duped into a silly state of importance by clever propaganda arraying him against his feeble black brother of toil. The exploitation of the poor white man of the south by the plantation owners, the industrialists and the politicians has been one of the greatest crimes of modern times. The CIO has a great and Herculean task mapped out and it can succeed, only, by getting the unfortunates of the south to understand and realize that the CIVIL WAR IS OVER.

KEPT ALIVE BY FALSE LEADERS

Pegler and Lahey, famous columnists for great papers, early last week referred to the tragic fact that they are still fighting the Civil War down south. They still refer to the northerners as "damn Yankees" and in their hearts there still rankles the "Lost Cause." The Confederacy still lives in Dixie. It is kept alive by Governor Talmadge of Georgia, by Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida and Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina. They keep the poor, benigned sons of the south fighting the Civil War in order to keep them from fighting for themselves. If intelligence and class consciousness should ever invade the land of cotton, Talmadge could no more be Governor of Georgia than James Ford, the colored Communist, could be President of the United States.

THE poor white southerner thought that he was fighting the Civil War when his leaders fought the Child Labor Law, they thought of the Civil War when woman suffrage was proposed. They were told that the Wages and Hour Law, better known as the Wagner Act, would make the colored people their social equals. They have been deceived into fighting all progressive legislation by the injection of the color issue. They were told that colored people would get uppity if they were benefited by these new laws and that sooner or later they would rise up and seek 'intermarriage." The wicked and selfish spokesmen for the capitalistic classes cleverly and adroitly started them fighting the Civil War all over. They are doing that very thing right now as they tremble in their shoes at the thought of the CIO and its entree into the black bottoms of Dixie.

OFFERS BRIGHT FUTURE TO SOUTH

If the CIO is able to go South and organize the workers of both races there will be an end to peonage, the crop lien system, the commissary system and all of the perfidious practices that have kept the workers in economic chains and ignorance. If the workers of the southland are ever organized and enlightened there will be no white primaries and poll tax laws. There would be less log cabins, fewer "Tobacco Roads" and no occasion for the Okies to find the "Grapes of Wrath" in California. Labor organizations like the CIO can no longer be driven from the southern states by the mere fact of branding them as being Communists, who are seeking to overthrow the government. The government is now fighting for the Communists in Russia and is busily engaged in sending aid to Joe Stalin. They can't pull that old gag and get away with it.

NOW is the time for the labor organizers to go south and galvanize the southern workers into action. We hope that President Murray can figure out a way to carry square-jawed and straight-shooting John L. Lewis with him for Lewis is not afraid of the southern demagogues. The southern workers need the fires of intelligence to burn away their false gods and maybe the CIO can pull down these fires as Elijah did against the false prophets of Baal. They need to be baptized with Truth and Understanding. Lead on! Go South CIO.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Sissle Already on Tour

DEC 1 3 1941

By E. B. REA

BALTIMORE

The declaration of war against Japan and the rapid changes in military and civil circles won't affect present plans for the entertainment of soldiers in various army camps—not at the present time.

This information was officially presented the AFRO's theatrical department on Monday by Lawrence Phillips, director of publicity of United Service Organization (USO) Camp Shows, Inc., of New York.

Mr. Phillips's Reply

The AFRO, ever on the alert for latest developments in national and world events, contacted Mr. Phillips on Monday, asking: "Will declaration of war curtail army camp shows?"

An immediate reply from Mr. Phillips brought the following answer: "Replying to your inquiry of today (Monday), do not contemplate curtailing army camp shows account of declaration of war."

Army Camp Shows, Inc., recently organized in New York, already has started several entertaining units, including one colored unit headed by Noble Sissle, noted orchestra leader, on rounds of camps throughout the country.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mitchell Hits Back At Labor Critics

DEC 1 3 1941

WASHINGTON, (ANP) — Declaring that his unqualified support of labor means the uncompromising opposition to labor racketeers, Congressman Arthur W Mitchell in the house Friday blasted the mine workers and the Workers Defense league. Under the latter's auspices, Mitchell was scheduled to speak in New York on December 4 But following a statement attributed to Mr. Mitchell in which the congressman urged Negro mine workers to stand by the government, Morris Milgram, secretary of the league, wired Mr. Mitchell cancelling his speaking engagement.

"We feel that you have betrayed labor's cause in calling upon Negro mine workers to act as strike-breakers," the telegram read. "We deplore also your advice to Negro miners if followed would set race against race, resulting in further discrimination against Negro workers. We agree thoroughly with criticism of your advice on United Mine Workers of America strike issued by President Willard Townsend of United Transport Service employes."

Mr. Mitchell followed with a letter in which he gave vent to his feelings:

"Let me say to you here and now, I have no apology to make for any stand I have taken on any matter pertaining to labor. I have voted for every measure which came before congress during the past seven years for the benefit of labor. I am not so silly and so foolish to think that while my people are essentially a laboring people that labor organizations do not and have not made serious blunders. If calling attention to those blunders and asking my people to be loyal to this country provokes your organization, then you stand forever provoked.

"I know there are a great many racketeers who would like to see labor used exclusively as their tool. I wonder if you are not one. You have the same opinion as your friend Townsend who tried to run against me for congress, and with all the noise he could make, found less than 2,000 people in the city of Chicago who had confidence enough in his ability to vote for him.

"I am essentially a labor man—not a labor racketeer, and I shall speak and vote my sentiment as God gives me knowledge to know the fact and if it displeases men of your type, I say again: Forever stand displeased. The sooner we get rid of that type the better for those of us who believe in good citizenship and in fair play for labor and for all racial groups.

Mr. Mitchell then introduced into the Congressional Record for the second time, a list of AFL and railroad unions which discriminate against Negroes and at the same time introduced again his statement made in May, 1940, against John L. Lewis, whom he terms "the most dangerous outstanding leader in America today."

His charges are that Lewis is seeking a dictatorship in the United States with himself wielding the power and authority."

The congressman declared he had been criticized by some of "our so-called labor leaders who smark under any requirements which they think are calculated to draw attention to their shortcomings."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Race Trainmen Get $8,720 Pay Raise

DEC 24 1941

ST. LOUIS, —(ANP)—A wage increase of $8,720 a year was gained for 197 train porters and brakemen in an agreement signed here Monday, December 15, by the Brotherhood of Trainmen, Brakemen, Porters, Switchmen, Firemen, and Railway Employees, Inc., whose headquarters are located in Oklahoma City, and the representatives of four railroad companies, the brotherhood announced.

359

The agreement signed after seven months of negotiations, also brought a guarantee for a shorter work month in decreasing the number of miles traveled monthly by the railroad employes.

The railroad affected are the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad company, St. Louis and San Francisco Railway in Texas, the Brownwood. North and South railroad and the Fort Worth and Rio Grande railroad. Several southeastern railroads, will be affected by wage increases as soon as this brotherhood finishes negotiations with the managements of these railroads.

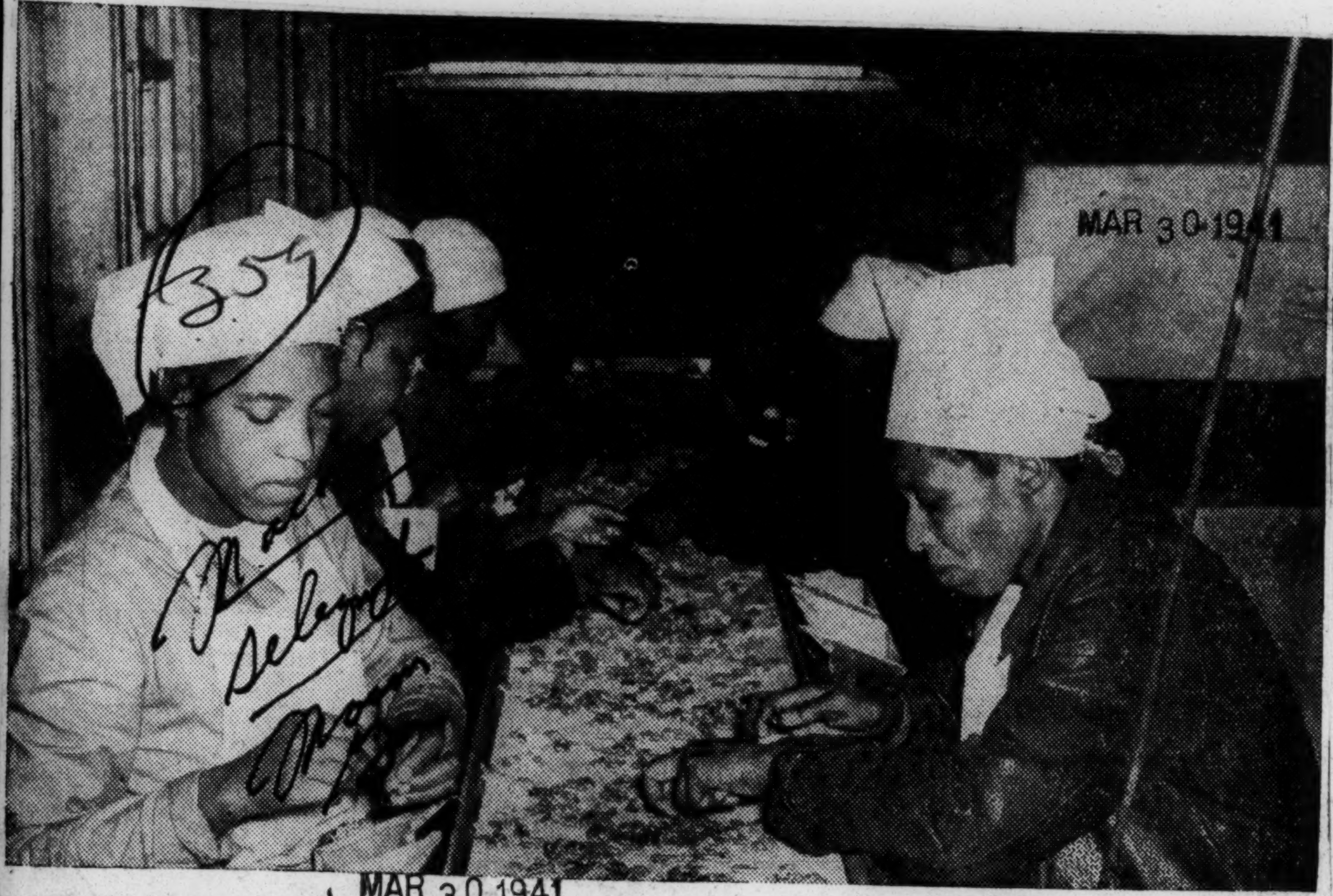
DEC 24 1941

By the agreement signed in St. Louis, each of the 197 colored trainment affected will receive $157.80 per month instead of $125 for 5,500 miles traveled monthly and additional pay for every mile in excess of 5,500.

The colored trainmen, brakemen and train porters we rerepresented by State Bennett, general president, and Vernon C. Coffey, general employes' representative of the brotherhood. Mr. Bennett resides in Oklahoma City and Mr. Coffee in Kansas City, Kan.

Coffey and Bennett were formerly officers in one of the American Federation of Labor unions and were forced to incorporate by reason of having their charter revoked by AFL, allegedly because they represented colored train,ment, firemen, etc.

According to Coffey, the big five and the several white brotherhoods whose memberships is made up of white men have seen to it that the increase granted by the President's fact-finding board in mediation only applies to white switchmen, fireman, flagmen, brakeman. "The colored men must look to their own unions to gain this increase." he said.



MAR 30 1941

359

MAR 30 1941

FINAL STAGES of hulling pecans must be done by hand, though modern machinery does much of the work at B. Lloyd's pecan selling stations. The Negro women shown here are removing the bits of shell and the unpleasant connective tissue which may remain after the mechanical processes are completed. Examination completed, the shelled pecans are received in shallow trays and stacked in rows in the dryer. Photos by James Wilder, Griffin.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Private Wages vs. Public Wages—

Laundry Workers Here Face Dilemma

359

JUN 4 1941

The controversy of private vs. public pay scales flared again in Macon yesterday, when it was revealed that several Negro women have been forced from WPA payrolls because they refused to accept employment in a local laundry at 8 cents per hour.

Several other Negro women accepted the laundry jobs when they were warned that refusal would result in automatic discharge from the WPA.

On the WPA jobs, the women worked 30 hours per week at 33 cents per hour, receiving $39.60 per month for 120 hours work. At the laundry they were offered $4.80 per week for 60 hours work, with the opportunity of working longer hours at the same 8-cents-per-hour scale.

WPA 'HAD NO CHOICE'

The women, required by WPA regulations to be listed for private employment with the Georgia State Employment Service, were referred to the jobs by the employment office.

H. P. Derry Jr., employment officer of the WPA, said that his office "had no choice" but to discharge WPA employers who refused the jobs. He said several Negro women had been removed from the WPA assistance project at Macon hospital after being offered private employment in the laundry.

"Regulations require that WPA employes must accept private employment when it is offered," he said. "The only requirement is that the employment must be at prevailing wage. When the laundry asked the Employment Service for workers, they notified the women, and at the same time notified us that jobs awaited them.

"I checked with other laundries and found that the prevailing wage for laundry beginners here is 8 cents per hour. That left us no choice but to remove from the roles those who refused the jobs."

G. Roy Bethune, director of the Georgia State Employment Service here, confirmed the fact that the women were given their choice of working for 8 cents per hour or losing both their WPA jobs and the laundry jobs.

"There is plenty of labor available, yet the labor situation is serious," he said, explaining that many workers refused to work for wages offered.

He revealed that the prevailing dissatisfaction with wages in private employment is causing a fast and damaging turnover of labor in local private employment. He said his office had no control over wages offered, but endeavored to provide workers for private and public employment without prejudice.

TO BECOME MORE ACUTE

The controversy over wage scales here has recently been heightened by the employment of thousands of local workers at Camp Wheeler, Avondale and other defense projects. Government scales start at 33 cents per hour in most cases, and are generally much above the wage scale followed in most local private employment.

The controversy over laundry-workers wages will be made more acute within the next two weeks, when the Camp Wheeler laundry goes into operation it was revealed yesterday. More than 400 women will be employed in the Camp laundry at a minimum wage of 33 cents per hour, doing work similar to that for which workers receive 8 cents per hour in local private laundries.

MAR 30 1941

Macon Telegraph
Macon, Ga

MAR 30 1941

GEORGIA'S PECAN CROP is valued at over a million dollars by the state department of agriculture and B. Lloyd's several stations sell about 300 thousand pounds a year. The pecans are sold in the shell, plain shelled, salted, in confections and other forms. Here are a group of women at work filling candy boxes with various sorts of confections that contain pecans.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Berry Pickers Rejoice

It must look like the millenium has come to the hedgerows down there in South Georgia where the blackberry pickers are reaping riches from the fence corners beyond their wildest dreams as links between the briar patch and the wineries.

JUN 2 9 1941

A dispatch from Quitman points the situation by saying that Cindy Simmons and her two children were paid $11 for two days' pickings last week, and the Simmons fingers we infer, are not more nimble than those of countless other pickers, white and colored, now harvesting a good living from Nature's waifs and strays.

We may take it for granted that cultivated plantings of blackberries contribute substantially to the requirements of the wineries, but the spontaneous largesse of the earth is a Godsend to the familiar brigade which spreads out over the highways and byways of Georgia with seasonal regularity when the luscious berries begin shining on the vine.

JUN 2 9 1941

Our Quitman correspondent quite correctly reminds us that the standard price of $1 a bushel is less than 5 cents a quart, but equally is right in noting that to peddle the berries by the quart means that a weary way has been traveled at the end of the day while an unlimited market at fair prices offered by the wineries gives new zest to the pickers.

It would be an understatement to say that the blackberries in the jamb of the fence furnish pin-money for many families, for while this is true there are many more for whom these vagrant earnings are bread-money and meat-money, down there in the cabin under the hill.

The buyer for one winery paid out $400 for blackberries at Quitman in one week and something of the same kind is going on all over South Georgia. Purchases on a commercial scale of fruits and berries of various kinds are turning loose a golden stream throughout the state.

JUN 2 9 1941

In a very real sense, this new wine gladdens the heart of man.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

"Eight Cents Per Hour"

The outcome of a jury probe at Macon into the admission of a laundry industry that it is paying colored women labor as low as eight cents per hour will not startle the age nor shake civilization because of the humble people involved. But it will go down as one of those furtherest down, who have no political appeal and whose only weapon to keep soul and body together and underwrite civic and judicial security is the bare sweat from their humble brows.

It came about this way. There is an order which the department enforces on WPA administrators to remove from the relief rolls those who refuse work for which they are fitted. According to Director Harmon, he has no other recourse but drop those from the rolls who are offered work. Mr. Harmon stated in his message to Macon authorities, that eight cent per hour was terrible, but he had no other option than the carrying out of the commission's recommendation and the people would be dropped from the rolls.

JUN 16 1941

In a civilized land where the offices of the nation are inquiring into the well beings of millions in foreign lands and even appropriating money in the billions and ships and food, we have the sad encounter of an industry taking advantage and making it known that it has jobs for certain people in which it is willing to bleed them at the rate of eight cent per hour. What standard of living can these people afford in the face of a rise in price of living commodities, rents and other necessities that make up human civilized equipment?

It is no matter of surprise that we have among us those desperate characters committing offences upon our society and spreading disease wherever they exist Here is the source of the petty thief. the slum hounds.

It seems that our laws of wages and hours have those loopholes in which men furtherest down are rendered no security or remedies to the ills affecting them. When people of political power and prestige are allowed to even strike on government productions fcr national defense, with mediation boards coming to their rescue, when they are receiving high wages already and at the same time certain industries are allowed to prey upon certain people at the rate of eight cents per hour an dhtn et[illegible]tehe at on the WPA on them, there is no plainer lesson of man's inhumanity to man. From this score the world has learned its insecurity and has invited revolutions and open uprisings to its utter shame and chargin.

JUN 16 1941

Let us hope that the Macon Grand Jury probe into this exxploitation and do whatever is within its power to remedy this disgraceful situation.

35g-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Workers Are Feted By Power Company

SAVANNAH, ~~Ga.~~ (SNS) — Executives and officers of the Savannah Electric and Power Company entertained forty-two colored employees who had been in the employ of the company more than ten years on Friday evening, July 11. The form of entertainment was a banquet [illegible] at the Maintenance building of the company at Indian and Ann streets.

Master of ceremonies for the occasion was the Rev. Harry J. Gordon, who has forty-one years of service to his credit. Rev. Gordon introduced Mr. A. F. Solms claim agent, who congratulated the men for the length of service with this company and told of the appreciation of the company to them for the commendable way in which they had carried their responsibilites. He, in turn, introduced Mr. C. C. Curtis, president of the Savannah Electric and Power Company.

President Curtis told the men that the success of the Savannah Electric Power Company was not due to the efforts of any one man or two, but to the cooperation, the honesty, the loyalty, courage, and truthfulness of every man connected, regardless of position. He also stated that of the more than four hundred men employed, two hundred and sixty had been with the company more than ten years

"This occasion," said Mr. Curtis, "the company's first annual presentation of service emblems, is one that I have looked forward to a long time. It marks both an end and a beginning. It is the end of a search for some adequate, yet not elaborate, way for the Savannah Electric and Power Company to acknowledge the years of service of its employees; and it is the beginning of what I hope may be a series of such occasions, to be held each year, at which time eligible employees will be welcomed into the first, or ten year group while older employees are graduated into other groups. Service ployees who have had ten or more emblems are to be given to all em- years service, including predecessor and affiliated companies. Employes have been divided into groups, each group representing ple of ten years.

"These emblems, we hope, will be treasured by you to whom they are awarded, as representing grateful recognition and acknowledged by the company of years of worthwhile cooperative service to

Gold emblems for forty years of service were awarded to Harry J. Gordon and Robert Walker; for thirty years of service to David Brown, Robert Daniels, William Green, William Holland, Albert Reese, Robert Verd[illegible] John Williams and George Richardson; for twenty years service to Robbie Black, David A. Johnson, Prince A. Parker, James Smith, George Strain, Willie Thompson, Stephen Wiley and Henry Zeigler; for ten years of service to Isaac Andrews, Robert Andrews, Henry Bacon, Richard Baxter, Jessie Brown, Walter Brown, Lindsay Clark, Simmie Cooper, Benjamin Curry, Sylvester Daniels, Jake Green, James Harris, Abraham Huntser, Dolphin Kent, Joseph Ladson, Stafford Lambert, George Lofton, Charles Mulberry, William Price, Walter Rhodes, Jesse Rivers, Lester Scott, Joseph Strain, Mack Washington, Oscar Williams, John Bell, Jim Kibler and Harry Mirchison.

White officials and executives present at the banquet were: C. C. Curtis, president; A. F. Solms, claim agent; J. W. Atkinson, chief engineer; W. P. Purse, superintendent of installation; W. J. Carter, line superintendent; W. J. Stewart, road master; C. H. Schwaner, treasurer; F. C. Martin, general superintendent; and G. W. Henry, master mechanic.

The menu, which was served from the Savannah Hotel by members of the hotel dining staff, included half country fried chicken, corn on the cob, steamed rice, candid yams, potato salad, watermelon, coffee, hot rolls, biscuits and cigars.

JUL 21 1941

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

THE "SONS OF THE SOUTH," nationally known quartet from Tuskegee Institute, Ala., will make a special trip to Cleveland, Ohio, during the week of September 8-14 to appear on the program of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., the largest Negro organization in the world. These artists are appearing on the convention program through the courtesy of the makers of Royal Crown Cola. This corporation employs the "Sons of the South," on a national basis.

This is the third consecutive year that the "Sons of the South" have appeared on the program of the National Baptist Convention through the courtesy of the Royal Crown Cola people.

SEP 8 1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Negro's Public Enemy No. 1

NOV 14 1941

A Negro worker was complaining the other day that he was not included in the raise of pay and in the Christmas bonus his boss was giving. With much feeling he contended that he had to pay as much for the necessities of life as whites and that he too had been loyal and serviceable to the firm.

Yes, that is unfair! But it is inevitable under present conditions! Raises in pay and bonuses are overtures of an employer made always with an eye to the future as well as out of appreciation for the past. The boss must be mindful of his white employes. They can take their talents elsewhere. But this Negro cannot find another job. For that reason the employer is not compelled to be considerate. He may even feel that he befriends Negroes enough when he employs them.

NOV 14 1941

Let's go a step further than condemn the other fellow. Let's be practical and see what steps we can take which will do away with this inequality. Respect for the Negro worker will never obtain until he has earned it the hard way. It is not this man's boss that keeps him down, but the unemployed among his people. They make him easy to replace, and take away any need to raise his salary or give him a bonus.

Negroes who are themselves industrious and worth-while must become missionaries and inspire the rest as the price of their own opportunity. We are tied together by race prejudice so that the worker can go no faster than the loafer. These youths of ours who are conspicuous for the up-to-dateness of their clothes and the pertness of their "line" of talk, but who in this day of defense employment do not take the training provided, will be a shame thrown in our faces so long as this generation of observers lives. It will be said that all Negroes are undeserving because our boys and girls who could help themselves to good jobs have not the initiative to prepare.

NOV 14 1941

Looking back a half century, it is easy to see why the men and women of ours in that day were tolerated. They came out of slavery handicapped, but they had the will to do. It could be said of them that they did their best. But this generation that has had schools to ready it, is more interested in the latest dance step than in making a place in the world.

Blame employers all we may for the lack of opportunity they give, they are beyond our control. On the other hand, we can do something about our own shortcomings. We nominate for the Negro's enemy No. 1 his own who in this day make all too little effort to get work.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Postal Telegraph Co. to Open All-Colored Office

NOV 29 1941

PHILADELPHIA.

The Postal Telegraph Company on Tuesday will open a branch office staffed and operated entirely by colored employees at 2041 W. Columbia Avenue, it was announced this week.

Decision to open the office, which will be located on the first floor of the Chris J. Perry Elks' Building, concluded conferences covering a period of nearly a month between telegraph company officials and several leaders in that section of North Philadelphia.

NOV 29 1941

Precedent for Utilities

Hiring of colored managers, clerks, dispatchers and messenger boys is an innovation here. No other large utility company has ever seen fit to do so.

In other cases such as the transportation, gas, taxicab and electric companies, colored workers have been employed, but only in menial capacities.

D.C. Office a Success

Edward Durgan, white, district manager of the Postal organization, stated he had every confidence that the new office would operate successfully and hinted that similar ones in other sections of the city may result.

Such an office has been operated successfully in Washington for several years and six colored messengers were recently employed by Postal in Baltimore.

Those who conducted negotiations with Durgan were: the Rev. Arthur Rankin, pastor of McDowell Community Church; Dr. John K. Rice, president of the North Philadelphia Civic League; and Hobson R. Reynolds, head of the Perry Lodge and national civil liberties commissioner of the Elks.

35g-1941

GEORGIA

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

URBAN LEAGUE IS CAUSE OF WORKERS GETTING INCREASE

MAR 8 1941

ATLANTA, Ga. —(ANP)— Sixty Negro families in Atlanta are receiving $480 a day as the result of a recent investigation of employment conditions at Camp Gordon located at Chamblee, Ga., by representatives of the Atlanta Urban League and the division of labor supply, National Defense Advisory Committee.

The investigation was started after numerous complaints were received by the league stating that Negro skilled workers were not being employed on a fair basis at the camp. While more than 1,400 white carpenters were working, not a single Negro carpenter had been hired. This was due in part to the unwillingness of white union carpenters to allow Negro union men to work on the job. Similarly, Negro painters and brick layers were unable to secure work in spite of all of their attempts.

A meeting was called by the Urban League on February 10, to air these grievances and a visit was made to the camp the following day by Clarence R. Johnson, consultant to the division of labor supply; W. Y. Bell, executive secretary, and Miss Almita Robinson, assistant to the executive.

MAR 8 1941

White Unions Blamed

The conference with camp officials was arranged during which the contractor stated that he had no desire to discriminate but had not hired Negro workers because they were not referred by the white unions. He agreed to hire 40 Negro carpenters immediately and said that he could take on between 10 and 15 painters.

The following Monday, February 17, 40 carpenters appeared at the camp and were employed. Another call was made for 10 additional carpenters. Nine Negro painters were hired during the same week. The rate of pay is $1 per hour, with time and half for overtime.

One difficulty met in attempting to meet the number of skilled workers which the camp requires is the fact that so few skilled Negro workers are in the union movement and thus are not employed. Since most of the work at the camp requires carpenters, it was estimated that a larger number of Negro skilled workers could be placed if they were available.

MAR 8 1941

An interesting sidelight is the fact that as a result of the work of the Atlanta Urban League the Negro community will receive in three weeks more than $7,000 in the form of wages, an amount larger than the league's total budget for the entire year. On a strictly financial basis, therefore, it is estimated that the league will more than have justified its yearly budget within this three week's space and it is estimated that the work at the camp will continue for several months, returning many thousands of dollars to the Negroes of Atlanta.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Congress Charges:

Georgia Negroes Robbed In Mill Boss-State Plot

MAR 12 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CAMILLA, Ga., March 11.—The local branch of the State unemployment agency, working in conjunction with the owners of sawmills, peanut shelling and cottonseed plants here have worked out a vicious system whereby Negroes are forced out of industry, cheated out of social security and unemployment insurance benefits and forced to work on farms under conditions of peonage, the local council of the National Negro Congress revealed this week.

MAR 12 1941

Waging a fight to secure reinstatement of two sawmill workers, dropped from the Tyson and Davis sawmills, one allegedly because he was told he was too old, although he has not yet reached the social security age limit of 65, Congress officials discovered that no unemployment insurance benefits are paid to Negro workers; instead these workers are given cards and sent out to work on Georgia farms at the lowest wages possible.

White workers, they said, received unemployment insurance benefits and social security aid. The peanut shelling and cottonseed plants, according to council officials, bring tenant farmers into their plants, work them for as long as they find it convenient and then send them back to the farm with forced-labor permit cards.

More Trained Barbers Needed; Heavy Demand

MAR 15 1941

359

The demand for scientifically trained barbers and skin specialists is so great that leading barbering institutions admit they cannot fill it. Griffin Barber College, 556 Mitchell St, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia, has on file continuous requests for well prepared barbering graduates. Many thoroughly equipped persons have been supplied. But the surface has only been scratched insofar as filling the insistent demand is concerned.

MAR 15 1941

Griffin training is surprisingly low, compared with rates existing at other leading barber colleges of the country. Attractive terms may be easily arranged. Comfortable rooms with board can be secured near the school. Students should be at least 16 years of age and in sound health. The six-month course is open to men and women.

Today barbering is a profession made so by an act of the state legislature requiring passage of a state board examination before one may qualify. Griffin Barber College equips all its students with the points necessary to sucessfully pass the board exams in their respective states. Write for particulars at once.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Conducts Sales Campaign For Royal Crown Cola

Mrs. A. V. Mundy, sercetary of the Booker T. Washington Sales Agency, has been in St. Louis for two weeks as a part of the [illegible] conducting a sales promotion campaign in the interest of Royal Crown Cola. Mrs. Mundy has traveled for eighteen months with this Agency throughout the North, South and East. She prepares all radio programs for the celebrated SONS OF THE SOUTH and gives commercials for Royal Crown Cola in all consumer meetings.

359

It is believer that the Neni Coroporation of Columbus, Ga., is making a definite contribution by making possible for trained Negroes to be given an opportunity in the advertising field.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

"Celebrated Sons Of The South" Are Here!

APR 11 1941

359

The Sons of the South (Above) are broadcasting over WLAC on Sunday 8:15 a. m.; Monday 4:30 p. m., Tuesday 8 p. m., and Thursday 6:30 p. m. of each week. These artists are sponsored on a National program by the Royal Crown Bottling Company, makers of Royal Crown Cola and Nehi beverage "Bill" Gordon, second from the left standing, is a Nashville boy.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
Tuskegeean

APR 11 1941

MRS. A. V. MUNDAY of Tuskegee Ala., who is in Nashville assisting in the Sales Promotion of Royal Crown Cola.

MRS. A. V. MUNDY TO REPRESENT R. C. COLA HERE

Officials of Sales Agency To Aid In Sales Promotion Campaign

APR 11 1941

Mrs. A. V. Mundy, secretary of the Booker T. Washington Sales Agency of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., will be in Nashville four weeks, assisting in conducting a Sales Promotion Compaign for Royal Crown Cola In addition to her secretarial duties Mrs. Mundy writes the radio programs for the Sons of the South, including the commercials for Royal Crown Colo, which are heard over WLAC on Mondays at 4:30 p. m.; Tuesday, 8:00 p. m.; Thursday, 6:30 P. M., and on Sunday at 8:15 a. m.

On all programs where the Sons of the South are featured, Mrs. Mundy acquaints the general public with the very fine piece of work which the Royal Crown Bottling Company is doing for our racial groups.

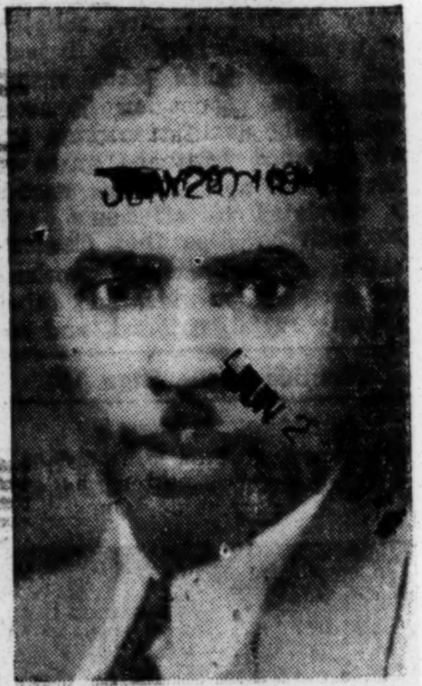
Mrs. Mundy states that large numbers of requests have been made for the services of the Sons of the South, as featured attractions on programs throughout Nashville and Middle, Tennessee. Any organization desiring the services of these artists should contact her at 2423 Heffernan St., or phone 5-5859 for an appointment.

APR 11 1941

Pictures of the Sons of the South will be found in another section of this paper.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

FOR ROYAL CROWN



S. J. PHILLIPS, former faculty member of Tuskegee Institute arrived in the city last week to head special sales promotion works here. Phillips is the president of the Booker T. Washington Sales Agency which is handling the advertising contracts of the for the Royal Crown bottling company for this particular promotion. The promotion is the presenting of the famed Sons of the South in several personal appearances and by way of radio station [illegible] every Wednesday morning at 11:15. This agency is doing a fine selling job for Royal Crown as it has for many other companies which it has represented. It originated in Tuskegee Alabama and since that time has contacted 120,000 consumers monthly for Royal Crown.

JUN 20 1941

359

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Traction Jobs

JUN 29 1941

LAST Thursday the city council of Chicago took unprecedented action in the unanimous adoption of a clause in the new traction ordinance to prevent discrimination in employment on the street cars, elevated, buses and subway.

The action of the city council was the result of the courageous fight made by Aldermen Earl B. Dickerson and Benjamin A. Grant who have waged an unceasing fight over several months to insure job opportunities to colored workers with the transportation concerns. These two aldermen are to be congratulated on the successful conclusion of their efforts to see that Negroes be given more than thirty-eight (the number now held) of the 15,000 jobs now filled in the employment of the Chicago Surface Lines. They wanted to see that Negroes be given jobs as conductors and motormen on the elevated trains, street cars and subway." They knew that for every job thus obtained it would raise the economic status of the colored people of this city and would boost our self respect. They knew that because Negroes constitute about a tenth of the passenger loads of the street cars it was only fair and equitable that the distribution of jobs should be made on a basis calculated to recognize that proportion. They knew too that unless the city council passed such an ordinance public opinion is too ineffective to remedy the situation. This occasioned their fight. They knew further that unless the city council put teeth into such an ordinance to insure punishment for violations nothing would be accomplished by the proposal. This occasioned their dogged determination that harnessed the [illegible] support of every Negro in Chicago and summoned hundreds down to the city hall to see and hear what was going on in our democratic council.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Memories Of Joseph L. Ray Revived In Rebuilding Of Finest Pullman

Colored Secretary of Steel Magnate Supervised Details Of $75,000 Palace On Wheels

By ALBERT ANDERSON

JUL 19 1941

CHICAGO, July 17—(ANP)—The finest private railroad car ever built, "The Loretta," the Pullman car owned by the late steel magnet and millionaire, Charles M. Schwab, and which cost $75,000, may run again. The car, sold last year to a Pennsylvania lawyer for $5,000, was the last word in luxury and refinement. Word received at Pullman headquarters here to the effect that bids have been asked for rebuilding and refurnishing stirred memories of her spectacular career and of her building.

Joseph L. Ray of Pittsburgh and Chicago, colored secretary to Mr. Schwab, was entrusted with the task of supervising the construction of the Loretta. He put into the car every modern and elegant idea which the travel world knew and added many new and original ideas of his own.

MANY ELEGANT DETAILS

The Loreta had a sun room with a domed ceiling on the rear platform which was enclosed. Then came an observation room with four great lounge chairs and a convertible sofa bed. Next forward were the bed rooms of Mr. and Mrs. Schwab, separated by a toilet room with a needle shower. Each room contained a brass bed, dresser and extensive wardrobe facilities.

A portrait of Mr. Schwab in oil was inset in a wall in his wife's room. The finest grain of mahogany was used but the wood was painted creamy white with festoons of pink rosebuds to set it off.

Beyond the bedrooms was a spacious dining room with seats for seven and ornamental side boards for silverware and china. The head end of the car contained two sections for the attendants, toilet and shower, pantry and an elaborate kitchen. The Loretta was famous the country over and attracted wide attention whenever she halted as did her affable owner whose salary was reported to be a million dollars a year.

ORDERED ELABORATE SET-UP

Joe Ray, as he was familiarly called, managed many of Mr. Schwab's affairs and was rated as an extremely clever and capable man. A graduate of Howard U.,

refined and cultured, he became an attache of the Carnegie Steel company's information department. The Chicago Inter Ocean newspaper of 1901 described Ray as "the velvet buffer between Mr. Schwab and the public."

In a trip which Mr. Schwab made across the country in the late 1920's, he had with him a group of important distinguished guests. The first stop west of Pittsburgh was Chicago. The Blackstone, finest hotel in the West in those days, received a dozen telegrams in quick succession one day, ordering lavish suites, gorgeous flowers, a string of limousines, a complete menu for dinner and numerous other details and niceties. The wires were signed simply "Ray."

The hotel filled each order after they learned they had originated from the Schwab car which was speeding toward Chicago but it is said the hotel clerks took a long time to recover from their astonishment when the Schwab party arrived and they fonud that Ray was a Negro.

Mr. Ray married and later divorced Nora Holt Ray, the famous entertainer and stage celebrity. At one time Mr. Schwab made him a gift of $10,000. Ray died shortly after Mr. Schwab passed. His fame is still fresh, however, in steel, railroad and hotel circles.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Red Cap Hearing In Chicago, Oct. 7

SEP 29 1941

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Thomas Holland, director of the research and statistics branch of the wages and hours divisions of the department of labor will preside at the hearing for red caps scheduled to be held Tuesday, October 7, in Chicago. The hearing which will begin at 10 o'clock in Room 325 of the new post office building, is a continuation of the session held in Chicago in July. It will probably cover all railroad terminals in Chicago, including the Illinois Central and the railroad terminals in Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin; Omaha; Cincinnati and Columbus, O.; Indianapolis; Louisville and the Pere Marquette station in Detroit.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dining Car Men To Get Wage Hike

OCT 11 1941

CHICAGO, Oct. 9—(By George F. McCray for ANP)—According to Thomas Edge and Sherman Fonville, officials of local 351 Dining Car Cooks and Waiters union, the outlook of the fight to establish a minimum wage of 70 cents per hour for all dining car employes and to raise wages to at least 30 cents per hour, became very bright this week: Representatives of the National Mediation board cooperating with union officials are negotiating agreements with all railroads to grant the same wage increases to dining car cooks and waiters as are given 19 operating and non-operating unions in the industry. This action will follow the report of a special fact-finding committee appointed by Roosevelt to study demands for wage increases by major railroad unions.

In a report to representatives of the Negro Labor council investigating labor disputes in which Negroes are involved, Edge and Fonville stated that several midwestern roads including the Great Northern, the Union Pacific, Illinois Central, and the Soo Line had already signed agreements to extend to cooks and waiters the same wage increases granted to other railroad workers. Over 3,000 workers, 2,400 of them are Negroes are affected by these agreements.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Gov't Hears Red Cap Plea --We Want a Living Wage

359

CHICAGO, July 15 (UP).—A union representative today told Thomas Holland, director of the Wage-Hour division's statistics department, that railroad terminal Red Caps are not making a [illegible] wage.

JUL 16 1941

Willard Townsend, head of the United Transport Service Employes of America, told Holland that Red Caps are opposed to the tipping system; that they desire an increase of from 36 to 40 cents in the minimum hourly wage and a maximum hour provision.

Townsend told Holland at a government hearing that the Red Caps are opposed to railroad companies taking a 10-cent fee for each bag carried.

"The railroads now are interested solely in more reve[illegible] not [illegible] well, how graciously, how pleasantly, how efficiently the Red Caps can serve passengers," he said.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

N.A.A.C.P. Missed Bet

BAD STRATEGY SIDING WITH CURRIER

NOV 1 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

A TALK with Robert Taylor in Defense Housing during a trip to Washington last week, a news items on the front page of The Courier and a continuation of the hearing on the Currier case in Michigan have all impelled me to write this story about pre-fabricated housing and Negro labor. The whole idea of pre-fabricated houses is a good one, especially for the Negro. It means that with the plans for defense housing, which are being developed in Mr. Taylor's office (and he is one of the few Negroes in Washington who actually sits in a policy forming body), houses can be built for an income group which private and public housing have yet failed to reach.

Mr. Cayton

But it is from the labor point of view that this question interests me most. The Building and Construction Trades Department of the A. F. of L. are not going to give Negroes employment. Now that they think the stabilization pacts with OPM has given them a closed shop, they are even arrogant in their refusal. If anyone was not convinced of this they should be after the response which Randolph got to his eloquent plea at the A. F. of L. conference in Seattle. At the same time the A. F. of L. (in spite of assertions to the contrary) are opposed to pre-fabricated houses as it puts some of their highly paid craft boys out of work.

CIO IS THREAT TO MONOPOLY

NOV 1 1941

The CIO's United Construction Workers Organizing Committee takes in Negroes and lets them work at any of the building crafts, thus this pre-fabricated housing movement gives the Negro a break both in providing him with decent houses, cheaply, and in giving him some leverage by which to break into the building trades. The A. F. of L. officials are aware of this threat and in the Chicago region are picketing the jobs done by CIO Negroes in the Negro community, on one hand, and refusing to give working permits on defense projects to their own A. F. of L. workers on the other.

Last week I commented upon the Currier case in which the Attorney General's office was investigating the refusal of OPM to accept a low bid because of the stabilization pacts with the A. F. of L. [illegible] that time Walter White wrote a letter to the Attorney General stating the facts of Negro discrimination by the A. F. of L. and attempting to in some way (how was not clear) to introduce the fact of Negro discrimination into the issue.

NOV 1 1941

CURRIER HAS BAD LABOR RECORD

Since then several new facts have come to light which, it seems to me, makes it necessary to revamp our approach. It has been pretty well established in hearings before the Senate defense committee that Currier had a pretty bad labor record and that until now both the A. F. of L. and the CIO have been unable to organize his plants. Indeed, there is evidence that Currier got the CIO union in only when he saw the opportunity to obtain defense work.

In view of this, it seems to me that perhaps Walter White would have done better to address his letter to his real allies, the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, rather than to the Attorney General. The Attorney General will not, of course, interject the racial angle in this already confused and extremely dangerous situation. As to Currier, he is by no means the ally of Negro workers (although it is to their interest to push his case in spite of his faults). I think the NAACP missed a bet by not getting in touch with the union people and allying themselves with them in their fight . . there is no choice between A. F. of L. and CIO in the building trades . . . Negroes can belong to one and have been pushed around for years in the other, so it is not a question of taking sides in a factional labor fight.

I think that this move was bad strategy again in view of the fact that some of the CIO unions have been developing an extensive housing program which may in the future receive government support. Tentative plans have already been drawn up whereby at least 250 families of the United Automobile Workers in Detroit at a monthly cost of approximately $30 including taxes, water, insurance and a novel 20-year personal insurance policy may be attained. R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW has written a pamphlet entiled "Housing For Defense" which states the extent to which that union has gone in developing its housing program.

MUST PLAY GAME OF POWER POLITICS

I'm not sniping at anyone, but it seems to me that here are the people we should be working with, not the Attorney General, not Currier, but the unions. Such organization as the NAACP should throw the prestige of their office behind a movement of Negro labor that would be interested in fighting these economic problems—to be their eyes and ears in government circles, to point out dangers and opportunities. We've got a government which is operated for pressure groups and to keep up, we've got to play the game of power politics. On vital questions like this, which means decent housing and a chance for employment for the Negro masses, our allies are the great and powerful new unions—not the big white folks in government jobs who are themselves subject to the push and pull of pressure groups.

NOV 1 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

12 Negro Foremen In Post Office

The Chicago branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees invited attention this week to the fact that there are only 12 Negroes holding supervisory positions in the United States Postal Service here.

It is claimed by officials of the organization that there should be at least 50, according to the total personnel of the local post office.

The 12 Negroes holding the position are: Burress B. Cooper, Robert E. Harrison, William L. Jones, Hannibal M. Cox, O. Grady Gregory, J. Wesley Jones, Charles Swader, John Landers, Charles T. Dotson, William Buckner, Theodore Jones, and Elmer Myers. The first three named are in the railway mail service branch, while the other nine are in the Chicago post office.

There are several hundred supervisors in the Chicago post office and other racial groups hold a higher percentage of the positions than do Negroes in proportion to the total personnel. The N.A.P.E. is continuously working to aid in the alleviation of this unjust situation. No Negroes hold positions above the rank of foreman.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Suit Over Ida Wells Project

DEC 5 - 1941

CHICAGO, Ill.—(ANP)—According to an announcement made here Thursday, the Thompson-Starrett company of New York City will sue the Chicago Housing authority, the federal housing authority and the South Park architects for a million dollars in connection with the building of the Ida B. Wells homes here, located at Thirty-seventh street and South Parkway.

DEC 5 - 1941

Thompson-Starrett company, the plaintiff, claims their company was damaged by negligence and incompetence on the part of those it is suing and as a result compelled to spend large sums of money for labor and materials and to perform numerous additional services not specified in the contract.

The Ida B. Wells homes are commonly said to be the finest federally-aided housing projects yet built. Its architecture, its materials, its finished appearance are said to be very superior. A sizeable number of Negro workmen were employed in its building.

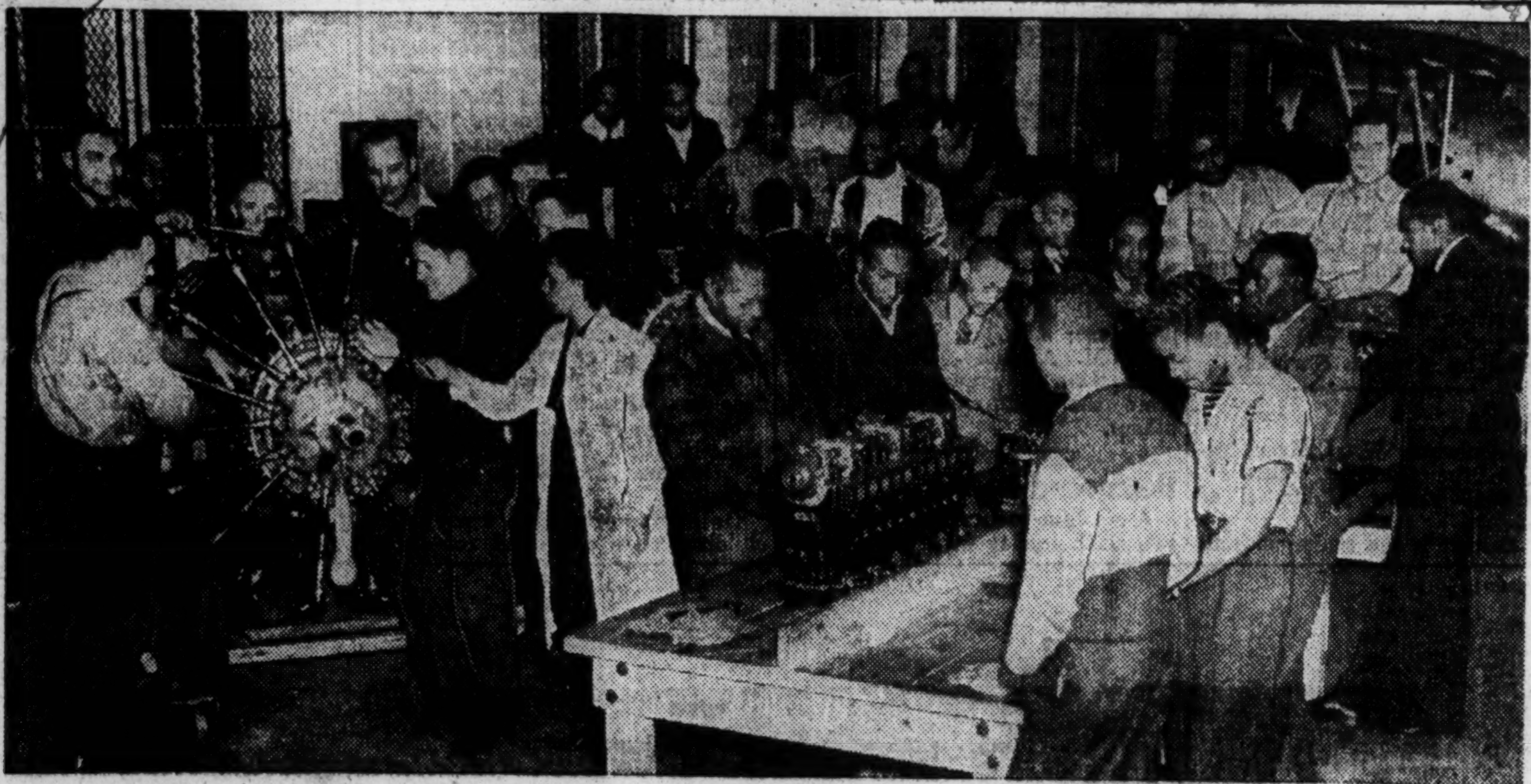
358-1941

ILLINOIS

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

FEB 1 1941

Negro and White Airmen Can and Do Work Together



One of the strongest arguments cited by the National Airmen's Association in its attack on the policy of segregation announced last week by the War Department for the United States Army Air Corps, is the democratic policy of the Civil Aeronautics Authority. According to Cornelius R. Coffey, NAA president, Negroes and whites have worked harmoniously together in the Civilian pilot training program even in the South. Willa Brown, in white smock, is shown instructing one of her aviation classes at Wendell Phillips high school. Cicago, where young men and women of all races participate. Miss Brown is secretary of the NAA and coordinator of CAA programs in Chicago.—Photo by Gushiniere.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Illinois Train Porters Negotiate Agreement

JAN 1 1941

CHICAGO. — Conferences to negotiate the revision of the existing agreement concerning rates of pay and rules governing working conditions for train porters in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad began January 8, in the offices of the carrier, stated A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

M. P. Webster, first international vice president, will lead the agreement committee composed of Sam Johnson, local grienvance committee chairman of the Chicago area, and train porter representatives from other divisions of the Illinois Central System.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Red Caps Voice Demand For 30% Wage Increase

CHICAGO, Ill.—(SNS)—In conformity with procedure under the Railway Labor Act, the United Transport Service Employees of America, on June 10, formally notified all railroad companies with which it has contracts that a demand would be made for a flat 30 cent hourly wage increase for red caps and train porters in line with the general wage increase movement in the railroad industry.

JUN 15 1941

The increase wage request will effect some 3,500 red caps covered by existing UTSEA agreements with

Would Effect Some 3,500 Thruout Nation

railroad companies and would add about $3,300,000 to their annual earnings. This demand amounts to a pay boost to 70 cents minimum hourly rate of $5.60 a day for red caps and train porters.

ASK FOR INCREASE

This movement for a general wage increase by the UTSEA conforms with the recent movement inaugurated by the operating rail unions a few weeks ago for a flat 30 percent wage increase in all basic rates of pay. The five transportation unions have requested a wage increase of $168,000,000 annually for 350,000 engine, train and yard service employees. This has been followed by a similar request from the 14 non-operating rail unions and the dining car employees.

JUN 15 1941

In the formal notice to managements of all railroads covered by contracts, the UTSEA specifically requested that "effective July 10, 1941, there be applied to all rates now in effect an increase of thirty (30) cents and hour, provided however that no employee shall be paid less than seventy (70) cents an hour."

CONFERENCE SOUGHT

"It is our desire," the notice stated, "that the initial conference under this notice be held at the earliest possible date at a time and place to be designated by you on or before June 20. A similar notice is being served upon all other carriers with whom we hold agreements. In event that we are unable to reach an agreement upon the foregoing request at such separate system conferences, we further propose that the matter be handled on a joint national basis.

JUN 15 1941

Our reason for this recommendation is based upon the existence of machinery for the settlement of similar questions for other organizations with whom you have agreements and which practice was put into effect in 1931 in the 10 percent wage reduction and the subsequent restoration. This notice is not intended to supercede any questions now in conference or pending settlement."

JUN 15 1941

Aside from red caps and train porters a corresponding increase will be demanded for operating employees represented by the UTSEA in the South.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

The Commission Queries

JAN 12 1941

THE Illinois Commission on Urban Conditions of Negroes in Illinois forced some damaging admissions from the labor leaders, utility heads and corporation officials who testified before it at the public hearings held last week. Although many of the witnesses were often evasive on the point involving discrimination against Negro employment in their particular businesses, the Commission queried them until the fact became obvious that their policies of hire were surrounded by strictly enforced racial policies.

The Commission is in a position to recommend to the General Assembly some worthwhile legislation for improving the economic and social conditions of the colored people of this state.

The Chicago Surface Lines, according to the testimony of its president and general counsel, employ some 14,000 people of which forty-one are Negroes. Except for the courage and determination of a few Negroes several years ago in preventing the Fifty-first street car tracks from being laid unless they were hired, these forty-one men would not be working. A similar disparity of racial distribution of work exists in the employment of the Elevated and telephone companies. These concerns are public utilities. They operate businesses that are quasi-public in nature and so are regulated by the state. They serve all races and nationalities. Likewise, all groups contribute to their success. Millions of nickels go into the 40,000 telephones installed in the homes of Negroes annually. Likewise, millions of fares from the purses of colored "L" train, street car and bus riders are paid each year. Simple justice would command that all contributing to the operation of these businesses should share in equal proportion in the work opportunities that they offer. But Negroes are maliciously neglected from their payrolls.

The character of their businesses gives the state the right to regulate them in their operation. The state tells them the types of service to give, the amount to charge and the frequency of service. The state could go one step further, without doing injustice to reason, and prevent them from discriminating against colored people in the matter of employment.

JAN 12 1941

It is hoped that in the Commission's report to the General Assembly this year it will include such a recommendation.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

STATE BODY IS TOLD PROBLEM NEARING CRISIS

JAN 1 1 1941

1933 Unemployment Hike From 20 Per Cent To Record High Mark

The State Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population conducted hearings in the city council chambers Friday and Saturday.

Testimony that the problem of Negro unemployment is becoming increasingly serious was given Friday by Leo M. Lyons, secretary of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission. In 1933, he said, 20 percent of Illinois' Negro population was on relief. In November, 1940, the number had increased to 46.6 percent.

Edward L. Doty, executive secretary of the American Consolidated Trades council, said Negro workers have been "constantly knocking on the doors of Chicago unions" since the Stockyards strike of 1919, but have been refused membership and cannot get work on union jobs in the building trades industry.

The following day, Horace R. Cayton, director of the Good Shepherd Community center, charged city building and health inspectors with laxity in their inspections of housing facilities in Negro communities.

Negroes have to pay one-fourth more rent than white persons do for the same type of accommodations said Cayton, a former research assistant the University of Chicago, who cited surveys made under the direction of that university as the source of his comparison of rentals.

Previous testimony before the commission had indicated that Negroes are not employed as rapidly as white groups and form 46 percent of the relief rolls. Cayton stressed the point that despite these handicaps and in addition to them the Negroes have to pay higher rent.

He described the high rentals to several factors: the restricted area available where Negroes can rent homes, the failure to replace demolished and deteriorated housing, and the desire of "absentee landlords" to get a quick return on property rented to Negroes.

"I know of no scientific support for the prevalent idea among landlords that properties rented to Negroes are going to run down," Cayton said.

Cayton also mentioned neglect of property by "absentee landlords" as an item in the unequal Negro rental market; whereupon State Representative Ernest Greene asked if "absentee landlords" did not also sometimes rent property in the Negro areas for immoral purposes.

Cayton agree that the renting of buildings for use in vice and gambling was done usually by landlords who, not living in the community, lack interest in its welfare. He told the commission that the overcrowding of families, several of whom must use the same facilities and quarters, was undoubtedly one of the important factors in delinquency.

Morgan L. Fitch, president of the Chicago Real Estate board, admitted that Negro housing conditions were "most acute," but said little could be done about it "as long as government remains in competition with private enterprise."

The commission is to make recommendations to the legislature concerning problems of the colored population.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Illinois Leads Nation In Giving Negro Youth Jobs

APR 1 3 1941

Illinois leads the nation in giving work experience to Negro youth with a total Negro employment of more than 20 per cent of the total youth personnel on the National Youth Administration program in the state, according to a report issued today by State NYA Administrator Mary Stuart Anderson.

The Illinois figure followed the release of a new NYA publication entitled "The Tenth Youth" together with a statement by National Youth Administrator Aubrey Williams in Washington that "every tenth youth on the program is a Negro youth."

In Illinois 4,604 Negro wouth are employed on the NYA work experience program which figure represents more than a fifth of the total.

APR 1 3 1941

The national figures show that the NYA out-of-school work program has increased 68.1 per cent since December of last year and the number of Negro youth employed has increased 73.1 per cent during the same period. While last December, the percentage of Negro youth on the rolls represented only 10 per cent of all youth employed, recent compilations show that the ratio has increased to 13.2 per cent.

The new NYA publication describes the work which that agency is doing and has done for Negro youth since the inauguration of the program in 1935. It points out that Negroes have received a fair share of the benefits available to high school and college students and that 300,000 Negro youth have received wages since 1935 for part-time work to fit them for employment in private industry.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

NEGROES MAY GET SKILLED JOBS AT GEN. MOTORS PLANT

DETROIT, May 21—(By Robert A. Crump for ANP)—That Negroes might at long last get a chance to work as skilled artisans in General Motors plants on jobs heretofore denied them loomed over the past week as General Motors corporation sent letters and questionnaires to its 160,000 automotive employes telling there is a crying need for many skilled laborers on defense production in its plants amounting to $750,000,000.

MAY 3 0 1941

The letter implies that skilled men within the plants will be given preference before more men are hired. The letter says in part: "Every possible facility of the corporation that is needed must be used—buildings, tools, machines, etc. But the greater importance is the 'know how' of the trained personnel available for responsible positions. General Motors is fortunate in having so large a group of men with this practical training.

"In order that we may have the complete facts as to men qualified and available for special work we are giving you an opportunity of filling out the attached questionnaire."

The questionnaire, which makes no designation as to race lists a great number of skilled jobs. Just how many colored men within the plants will be able ot qualify for some of these jobs is, of course, not known, but the significant thing is that if the barriers are being let down it may offer a chance to those who are prepared for special work to break through when the corporation brings in skilled men from the outside.

MAY 3 0 1941

35g-1941

ILLINOIS

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

World's Finest Private Railroad Car Supervised in Every Detail by Negro

Joseph Ray, Secretary to Charles Schwab, Planned $75,000 'Loretta'

Occupations

CHICAGO,—(ANP) — The finest "The Loretta", the pullman car owned by the late steel magnate and millionaire, Charles M. Schwab, and which roast $75,000, may run again. The car, sold last year to a Pennsylvania lawyer for $5,000, was the last word in luxury and refinement.

Word received at Pullman headquarters here to the effect that bids have been asked for rebuilding and refurbishing stirred memories of her spectacular career and of her building.

Joseph L. Ray of Pittsburgh and Chicago colored secretary to Mr Schwab, was entrusted with the task of supervising the construction of the Loretta. He put into the car every modern and elegant idea which the travel world knew and added many new and original ideas of his own.

"The Loretta" had sun room with a domed ceiling on the rear platform which was enclosed. Then came an observation room with four great lounge chairs and a convertible sofa bed. Next forward were the bed rooms of Mr. and Mrs. Schwab, separated by a toilet room with a [illegible] shower. Each room contained a brass bed, dresser and extensive wardrobe facilities.

A portrait of Mr. Schwab in oil was inset in a wall in his wife's room. The finest grain of mahogany was used but the wood was painted creamy white with festoons of pink rosebuds to set it off.

Beyond the bedrooms was a spacious dining room with seats for seven and ornamental side boards for silverware and china. The head end of the car contained two sections for the attendants, toilet and shower, pantry and an elaborate kitchen. The Loretta was famous the country over and attracted wide attention whenever she halted as did her affable owner whose salary was reported to be a million dollars a year.

Joe Ray, as he was familiarly called, managed many of Mr. Schwab's affairs and was rated as an extremely clever and capable man. A graduate of Howard U., refined and cultured. he became an attache of the Carnegie Steel company's information department. The Chicago Inter Ocean newspaper of 1901 described Ray as "the velvet buffer between Mr. Schwab and the public".

In a trip which Mr. Schwab made across the country in the late 1920's, he had with him a group of important and distinguished guests. The first stop west of Pittsburgh was Chicago. The Blackstone, finest hotel in the west in those days, received a dozen telegrams in quick succession one day, ordering lavish suites, gorgeous flowers, a string of limousines, a complete menu for dinner and numerous other details and niceties. The wires were signed simply "Ray".

The hotel filled each order after they learned they had originated from the Schwab car which was speeding toward Chicago but it is said the hotel officials took a long time to recover from their astonishment when the Schwab party arrived and they found that Ray was a Negro.

Mr Ray married and later divorced Nora Holt Ray, the famous entertainer and stage celebrity. At one time Mr. Schwab made him a gift of $10,000. Ray died shortly after Mr. Schwab passed. His fame is still fresh, however, in steel, railroad and hotel circles.

JUL 18 1941

359

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Race Man In Charge Of Pabst Beer Promotions

359

William Graham Making Great Record for Firm Which Recognizes Ability, Not Color.

CHICAGO, Aug. 7—When a man is recognized by the chief executives of a nationally-known concern to the extent that he has been allowed to direct a promotional department with nation-wide activities for more than three years, it is generally conceded by the most critical laymen or foremost business men that such a man is of utmost importance to the company he represents.

In the language of Edwin C. Morris, vice-president of the Pabst Sales company located on LaSalle street—Chicago's Wall street—William Bell Graham "is doing a fine job." Mr. Graham incidentally is a colored man but fortunately for him he happens to be working for a concern that wants and appreciates producers only. He happens to be one so the Pabst company has given him the entire United States to work in, and like Mr. Morris, the rest of his superiors and business associates will tell any one he is doing a fine job.

A HOOSIER

Mr. Graham is a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and also takes great pride in the fact that he is a graduate of the University of California in Los Angeles. He was the director at one time of the Graham Artists' Bureau, and as such secured engagements for many of the leading orchestras and top notch entertainers thruout the country.

This Pabst Sales company promotional expert is the son of a minister, the late Dr. D. A. Graham of the African Methodist Episcopal church, whose missionary work in Africa is one of the outstanding achivements in the history of the church.

A GOOD LISTENER

Young Graham can be described as being a good listener, he si an engaging conversationalist and just the kind of a man people are always glad to meet. He is high in his praise for the Pabst company.

"Each representative of the brewery," said Mr. Graham, "is given the fullest authority to function freely irrespective of color, creed or race." He stated also that during the many times in the past three years that he has travelled from coast to coast never once has he experienced any color prejudice in the far-flung system which manufactures Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer.

When in Chicago Mr. Graham usually stops at the Grand Hotel where between business conferences he is the affable guest of and host to his myriad of friends in the Windy city.

AUG 9 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Ruppert Brewery Opens Chicago Branch With Negro Representativ

OCT 18 1941

359

The well-known New York brewery recently opened a branch warehouse in Chicago to serve the Mid-West territory. Photo shows Bart Ryan, Chicago manager; George E. Ruppert, brewery president; Stewart Hedgepath, Negro sales representatives; and Harry M. Birsner, sales and production manager.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Railroads' Proposal Inadequate To Meet Demands, Say Leaders

OCT 25 1941

CHICAGO, Oct. 23 — (ANP)— Aroused by what union circles in Chicago regard as a "shockingly inadequ[illegible] counter proposal of the railroads to their demands for a flat 30 cents on the hour increase in wages, Thomas Edge and John Yancy, representing local unions of Dining Car Cooks and Waiters, and Red Caps, respectively, took steps this week to strengthen their case through a direct appeal to public opinion. This action started when F. G. Gurley, representing the railroads stated before President Roosevelt's fact-finding committee that the roads are willing to raise wages between 6 and 15 per cent only.

On Sunday both Yancy and Edge went before the Negro Labor council to explain not only the basis of the demands of their unions for sweeping wage increases, but also to explain the peculiar manner in which Negro workers are handicapped for collective bargaining in the railroad industry.

INCREASE AMOUNTS TO 40 CENT PER HOUR

Union observers in the Chicago area point out that even if the maximum 15 per cent proposed by the roads is granted to red caps and dining car employes, which group[illegible] over 75 per cent of all Negroes involved in the strike threat, these workers would have their wages raised to approximately 40 cents per hour.

The object of the appeal to the Negro Labor council is to organize public support for a general railroad strike which has been authorized by well over 90 per cent of the membership of the two unions.

OCT 25 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

COLORED POSTAL WORKERS GROUP MARKS BIRTHDAY

OCT 26 1941

The 28th anniversary of the National Alliance of Postal Employés will be celebrated by the Chicago branch at 5 o'clock this afternoon at Good Shepherd Congregational church, 5700 Prairie avenue. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, president of the Chicago Council of Negro Organizations.

Musical entertainers scheduled to appear are the Federal Glee club, directed by [illegible] E. [illegible]cks; the Alliance quartet; Miss Wilma Fletcher of Galesburg, Ill., and 6 year old Emmerlyn Jane Kemp.

OCT 26 1941

35g-1941

IOWA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EX-SLAVE SERVING 14th IOWA GOVERNOR

OCT 18 1941

DES MOINES, Ia., Oct. 16—Douglas Miller, the 80-year-old messenger "boy" in the office of Governor George A. Wilson, has been friend and office employe in Des Moines for 14 of Iowa's 27 governors.

OCT 18 1941

Mr. Miller is not as spry as he used to be in getting about the office rounds but he still has the same zest and enthusiasm that was apparent when he served under the first of the 14 governors. The ex-slave was born in 1861 in Montgomery county, Mo., and came to Iowa with his mother in 1866.

OCT 18 1941

35g-1941

KANSAS

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

North American Firm Hires Skilled Workers Only

Some Work as Custodians May Be Open for Negroes, Kindel-Berger Says—Key Men Are In Training

APR 4 1941

J. H. Kindelberger, president and general manager of North American Aviation, Inc., told The Star by telephone from Inglewood, California, today the key men to form the nucleus organization here to operate the bomber plant at Fairfax now were in Detroit getting the assembly plan coordinated with General Motors.

APR 4 1941

The group will come to Kansas City early in May, Kindleberger said and by the time the 10-million dollar plant opens in November the working organization will number between 1,000 and 1,500 men. Negotiations for the use of one or two of the vacant food terminal buildings as the headquarters for the nucleus organization, are now under way he said.

APR 4 1941

Receive Applications Here

"Applications for jobs in the plant where he will employ upward of **10,000 persons,** will be received at the temporary Kansas City offices in the near future," Mr. Kindelberger said: "We will receive applications from both white and Negro workers. **However, the Negroes will be considered only as janitors and in other similar capacities."**

It was the first statement made by the North American president concerning the employment of Negroes in the plant to be operated by his company at Fairfax. **He emphasized that under no circumstances would Negroes be employed as aircraft workers or mechanics in the plant.**

**"While we are in complete sym-
them as mechanics or aircraft
the company policy to employ
pathy with the Negro, it is against
workers,"** Mr. Kindelberger said.

"We use none except white workers in the plant here in Inglewood and the plant in Dallas and we intend to maintain the same policy in Kansas City.

APR 4 1941

"Regardless Of Training"

"There will be some jobs as janitors for Negroes. Regardless of their training as aircraft workers we will not employ them in the North American plant."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Pullman Porter Gets $1,000 Tip

LOUISVILLE—(ANP)— Friends of C. Harrison, Pullman porter of Washington, D. C. who found a king's ransome in his car here last Derby day, May 3, are just learning that Harrison received an award of $1,000 the largest tip ever given a Pullman man, as an appreciation for his honesty in returning the ring which was valued at $120,000.

The ring belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Altemus Whitney of Middleburg, Va., and is reported to the most valuable article ever left in a Pullman car.

Porter Harrison found the ring on the floor as he was making up the berth. The stone was so large, Harrison related later that although he realized it looked like a diamond, he did not think its was real. The insurance adjusters paid Harrison the reward. The ring was insyred for $75,000.

JUL 3 1941

35g

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PORTER GETS $1000 REWARD FOR HONESTY

Kty

LOUISVILLE, July 17 (ANP)—Friends of C. Harrison Pullman porter of Washington, D. C., who found a ring worth a king's ransom in his car here last Derby day, May 3, are just learning that Harrison received an award of $1,000 the largest tip ever given a Pullman man, as an appreciation for his honesty in returning the ring which was valued at $120,000.

The ring belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Altemus Whitney of Middleburg, Va., and is reported to be the most valuable article ever left in a Pullman car. Mrs. Whitney and her mother boarded the Pullman at Washington for Louisville, bound for the derby. They occupied a compartment in the car which was placed on a siding for the day. Sleeping late, they were the last passengers to leave the car and went directly to the track at Churchill Downs.

Porter Harrison found the ring on the floor as he was making up their berths. The stone was so large, Harrison related later, that although he realized it looked like a diamond, he did not think it was real. He thrust it in his pocket, later turning it over to Pullman officials. The insurance adjusters paid Harrison the reward. The ring was insured for 75,000.

JUL 19 1941

35g

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Porter Returns Lost Ring; Gets $1,000

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—It was learned here recently that C. Harrison, Washington, D.C., pullman porter received a $1,000 reward for returning a $120,000 diamond ring lost by one of his passengers last derby day.

At first discounting its value because of the great size, Harrison thrust the stone into his pocket later to learn its true worth and receive the $1,000 reward from insurance adjusters who had covered the gem for $75,000.

JUL 19 1941

35g

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Builds $300,000 Defense Housing Project For Whites Ahead of Schedule

By WILLIAM WARLEY

LOUISVILLE. — (ANP) — President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order demanding that Negroes be given employment on all government projects and in factories where government contracts are being filled, has been given great impetus by the success of Samuel Plato, Louisville contractor and builder.

It was a $300,000 proposition, calling for 2 1buildings with 88 family units, for white people, to be completed in 100 days. When Mr. Plato started to work, the site was a virtual wooded swamp. He cleared it, lighting, water mains and sewerage. Mr. Plato has practically finished the job in 90 days. Exactly 36 days after he started work all buildings were under roof. Actually there were only 76 days of actual operation. Under Mr. Plato, at the peak of the work there were 400 men employed, 45 per cent of whom were colored—plumbers, carpenters, civil engineers and colored men in all capacities. Fifteen persons were employed in the office, nearly all colored including local young men and women. Streets have been made, yards sodded, every home complete even to mirrors in the bath room, mail boxes on the fronts and metal house numbers.

That the authorities in Washington who awarded this big contract to Mr. Plato are pleased and perhaps amazed is proved by the fact that they have awarded him a $1.-050,000 contract to build even a larger settlement for colored men in Baltimore. That project, to be built on a 68-acre site, is to have 64 buildings, all brick, with 250 family units. It has been planned by Hilliard Robinson ,an architect who has made good in drawing up U. S. government buildings at Tuskegee. Mr. Woodson of Washington, is civil engineer on the job. The work is to be completed in 125 days and about 1,200 men will be given employment, all crafts in the building trades more or less will be required in the execution of the work. About 25 people will be employed in professional lines and office work. such as civil engineers, draftsmen, accountants, material clerks, timě keepers, stenographers, typists, clerks and expediters.

Government officials have been very fair with Mr. Plato in awarding him these contracts. They have disregarded color lines and only ask that he meet the terms of the contract and furnish the necessary bonds. Mr. Plato has more than made good and officials at Washington seem to be pleased because he has vindicated them in their demands that the Negro be igven recognition in all work in which the United States ogvernment is concerned.

OCT 25 1941

OCT 25 1941

Ky

35g

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Retires As Cashier Of White Firm After Serving 55 Years

Given Job in New Orleans After Answering Want Ad

By O. C. W. TAYLOR

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(SNS)—James Lewis, Jr., for fifty years employed by the Harry L. Laws Company, leading sugar brokers of this city as stenographer, bookkeeper and cashier, has retired from service. Mr. Lewis has been in the employ of this company since November 10, 1886 when he answered a want ad in a local white newspaper and after an examination by the heads of the company was given employment.

Mr. Lewis is the son of the late James Lewis, Sr., also of this city and in his days very prominent in Republican politics having once been appointed by the President of the U. S. A. to he office of U. S. surveyor general for the port of New Orleans. Mr. Lewis received private instructions in shorthand after his graduation from Straight College. During the time of his employment in the Laws Company he studied bookkeeping and accounting and was advance to one of the highest and most responsible positions in the gift of the company.

HANDLED LARGE SUMS

During the time of his employment in the responsible position he held Mr. Lewis was never under one penny bond. This year the compay has already handled 1,8000,000 sacks of Cuban Sugar, all of the cash from which has passed through the hands of Mr. Lewis. It was Mr. Lewis who has in the absence of the head of the firm from the city, signed all of the checks of the company amounting to millions of dollars.

Writing to Mr. Lewis at the time of his retirement, Mr. Harry L. Laws, of Cincinnati, present head of the firm said as follows: "In all the years that I have been active in the sugar business I have relied absolutely and without question upon your loyalty, integrity and dependibility."

Five years ago upon the completion of fifty years of service with the sugar company Mr. Lewis was presented with a handsome wrist watch, the gift of the employees of the New Orleans office and with a cash gift from the firm.

ACTIVE IN BUSINESS

Aside from his duties as cashier in the Laws Companys, Mr. Lewis has been very active in the business and civic life of the Negro in New Orleans. He was a companion of the late Walter L. Cohen and with him delegate to the National Republican convention held in Kansas City in 1928.

He was also delegate to the National Convention of this Party held in 1932, 1936 and in 1940 and in all of these years was a member of the Rules Committee. He was active in Republican politics in the state and at present is the secretary of the Orleans Parish Republican Committee.

He is president of the People's Industrial Life Insurance Company with headquarters in New Orleans and under the administration of Mr. Lewis, this company founded by the late Walter L. Cohen has grown to be the second largest Negro insurance company in the state of Louisiana. He is a director of the Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, and of the Home Community Center.

Mr. Lewis is owner of may valuable properties in the city of New Orleans and is probably the only Negro today who is living cn the famous Canal Street of that city. He is an active member of St. James AME Church.

SEP 7 1941

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

JAMES LEWIS, JR. RETIRES FROM WHITE FIRM AFTER 55 YEARS OF SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS, La.—James Lewis, Jr., for fifty years employed by the Harry L. Laws Co., leading sugar brokers of this city as stenographer, bookkeeper and cashier, has retired from service. Mr. Lewis has been in the employ of this company since November 10, 1886 when he answered a want ad in a local white newspaper and after an examination by the heads of the company was given employment.

Mr. Lewis is the son of the late James Lewis, Sr., also of this city and in his days very prominent in Republican politics having once been appointed by the President of the U. S. A. to the office of U. S. surveyor general for the port of New Orleans. Mr. Lewis received private instructions in shorthand after his graduation from Straight College. During the time of his employment in the Laws Company he studied bookkeeping and accounting and was advanced to one of the highest and most responsible positions in the gift of the company.

Handled Large Sums Without Bond

During the time of his employment in the responsible position he held, Mr. Lewis was never under one penny bond. This year the company has already handled 1,800,000 sacks of Cuban sugar all of the cash from which has passed through the hands of Mr. Lewis. It was Mr. Lewis who has in the absence of the head of the firm from the city signed all of the checks of the company amounting to millions of dollars.

Writing to Mr. Lewis at the time of his retirement, Mr. Harry L. Laws of Cincinnati, Ohio, present head of the firm said: "In all the years that I have been active in the sugar business I have relied absolutely and without question upon your loyalty, integrity and dependability."

Five years ago upon the completion of fifty years of service with the sugar company Mr. Lewis was presented with a handsome wrist watch, the gift of the employees of the New Orleans office and with a cash gift from the firm.

Has Been Active in Business and Civic Life of New Orleans

Aside from his duties as cashier in the Laws Company, Mr. Lewis has been very active in the business and civic life of the Negro in New Orleans. He was a companion of the late Walter L. Cohen and with him was delegate to the National Republican Convention held in Kansas City in 1928. He was also delegate to the National Convention of this party held in 1932, 1936 and in 1940 and in all of these years was a member of Rules Committee. He has been active in Republican politics in the state and at present is the secretary of the Orleans Parish Republican Committee.

He is president of the People's Industrial Life Insurance Company with headquarters in New Orleans and under the administration of Mr. Lewis, this company founded by the late Walter L. Cohen has grown to be the second largest Negro Insurance Company in the state of Louisiana. He is a director of the Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, and of the Hume Community Center. He is a member of the advisory committees of the N. Y. A. and of the W. P. A. in Louisiana and director of the New Orleans Urban League. He is also a leader in the Parent-Teacher organization of McDonogh 37 Public School.

Mr. Lewis organized the Lemann Playground Association in 1935 and has been active since that time in maintaining that playground for the Negro children of the lower section of New Orleans. He in company with Dr. J. A. Hardin of the city gave to the Albert Wicker Junior High School the library of Negro History. He also led off the gifts to the Xavier College library with $100.

Mr. Lewis is owner of many valuable properties in the city of New Orleans and is probably the only Negro today who is living on the famous Canal Street of that city his residence being opposite the site of the old Straight College now used as Wicker High School and the Negro Y. W. C. A. He is an active member of St. James A. M. E. Church.

Mr. Lewis states that he will give his attention now to the further development of the insurance company of which he is the president and will devote the remainder of his time to his race. He is intensely interested in playground facilities, school facilities and in the development of public speaking by the school children. He is in good health and does not in the least look the part of a man of his age. He is physically active and walks to work every morning with a brisk gait. He has never been married.

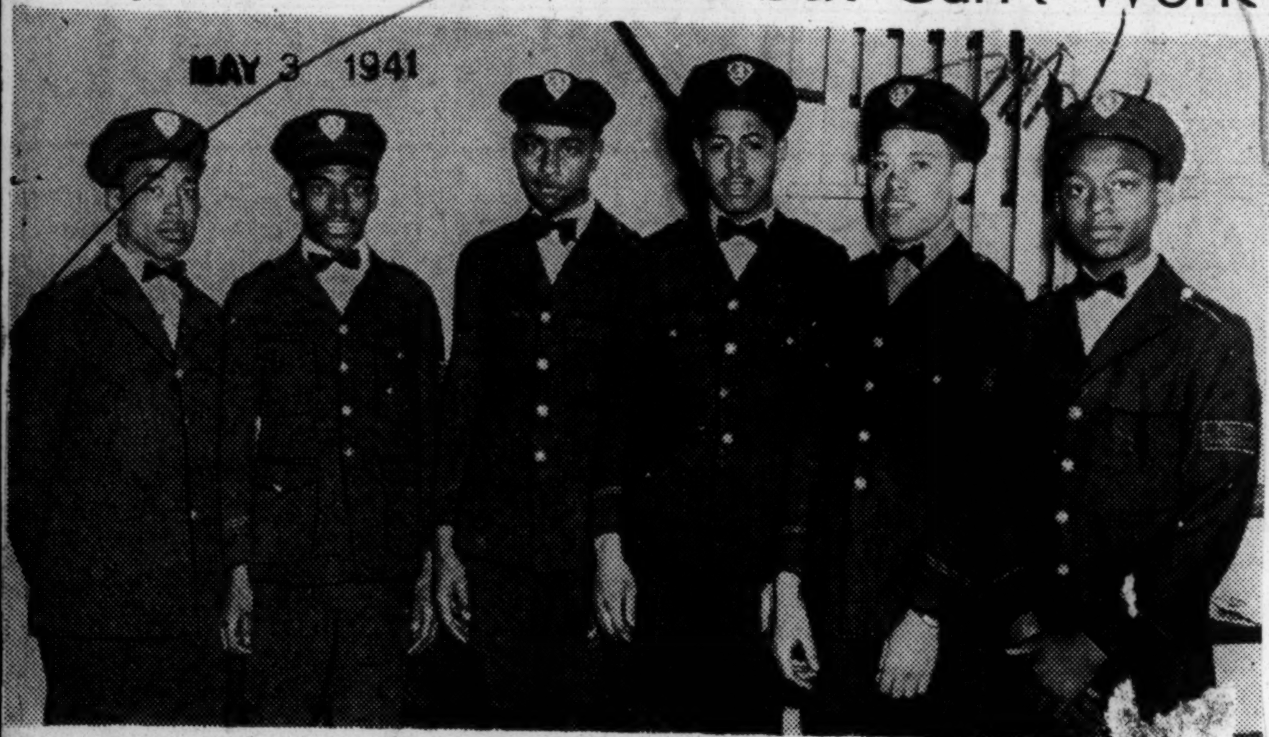
O. C. W. TAYLOR.

SEP 13 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

They Have Been Hired but Can't Work

MAY 3 1941



Md

Shown above are the six youths who were hired as messengers here on Monday by the Postal Telegraph Company. However, an alleged threatened walkout of the company's white employees has indefinitely postponed their being placed to work. Left to right, they are: Lew[illegible]selle, Floyd Overby, Edsel Brooks, Ernest H. Rohoblt, Lemiel Clash, Jr., and James Dubois Williams.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Marylan

Postal Co. Drops Color Bar; Hires 6

OCT 11 1941

35g

Md

BALTIMORE—Coming as a result of a six-month fight by the Urban League and other interested civic organizations and individuals, officials of the local branch of the Postal Telegraph Company hired six colored youths as messengers on Monday.

They are:

Warren Thompson, Lewis Rozelle, George Kyler, Vanlear Williams, Nathaniel Perry and Junius Smith. They are to receive $15 weekly for approximately 46 hours of work per week and are furnished uniforms free by the company.

Four of the six boys are stationed at the company's office at 114 Light Street, while the other two are working out of the office at 330 Guilford Avenue.

Break Came in April

Officials of the local branch of the Postal Telegraph Company first indicated in April of this year that they were willing to hire colored boys as messengers to offset a shortage of white youths brought on by the rising number of more profitable jobs throughout the city and in nearby defense plants which were available to them.

However, despite the fact that six youths were selected and equipped with uniforms, they were never placed, due to wh company officials termed a threa ened walkout of their white e ployees who objected.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Saul Perdue Gets Glenn Martin Post

OCT 4 1941

35g

Md

BALTIMORE.—Saul M. Perdue, teacher in carpentry and general woodwork at the Vocational School, has been appointed supervisor in the personnel division at the Glenn L. Martin airplane plant, Charles W. Sylvester, director of vocational education in the public schools, announced today (Tuesday).

Though Mr. Perdue's specific duties were not divulged, it was learned from fairly authentic sources that he will serve as an assistant to D. W. Seimon, personnel director at the airplane plant, and will help to select colored skilled and semi-skilled workers to be employed at the plant. He is to report for duty on Wednesday, October 1.

The announcement was the outgrowth of a series of conferences between officials of the Middle River plant which holds more than 600 million dollars worth of government defense contracts, and vocational education leaders in the local public school system.

OCT 4 1941

It is understood that the men to be employed will be recruited from the Vocational Defense Training Center No. 453, now in operation under Dr. G. Lake Imes, principal.

Several of the students have already been interviewed for jobs by Martin officials and others have been assured of employment as soon as they complete their courses.

Rice to Vocational

When confronted by the AFRO, Joseph C. Briscoe, principal of the Vocational School, Carrollton and Lafayette Avenues, admitted that Mr. Perdue had been given leave of absence for an indefinite period for this work.

During his absence, his duties at the school will be taken over by Herbert D. Rice, buildings constructor at Hampton Institute. At the present time he is a foreman on a construction project at Langley Field, Va.

Perdue Hampton Graduate

Mr. Perdue has been a teacher at Vocational School for five years. He is a graduate of Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, was assistant superintendent of construction for the American Missionary Association, which body was responsible for the building of many schools and universities throughout the country.

Has Wide Experience

He has taught in four States and has taken extension work in industrial and vocational education at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Technical Institute, and the University of Maryland. He has also drawn the plans for a number of new homes and stores in this city.

OCT 4 1941

Mr. Perdue is the son of the late Jailous Perdue, vocational instructor of Tuskegee Institute, and lives at 2410 College Avenue, Morgan Park, with his wife, Mrs. Melissa Stokes Perdue, home economics instructor at the Douglass High School.

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

STORES PICKETED HIRE COLORED HELP

MAY 3 - 1941

Colored girl clerks are employed in the 5 and 10 cent store, corner of Washington and Camden streets, and colored salesmen are at work in the "Stop and Shop Grocery" on Washington Street as the result of aggressive action by the Job Finding Committee of the N. E Congress for Equal Opportunities.

Picketing of the grocery store last Saturday enlisted the sympathetic and active support of even the store customers some of whom remarked: "This is what you should have done long ago"; and others actually joined the line of pickets. Men and women among the picket marchers carried placards which plainly proclaimed the object of the demonstration. Noted among the demonstrators were Miss Zara Dupont, wealthy Boston member of the famed Dupont family, and the Rev. Donald Lothrop, pastor of the Symphony Hall Community Church. There was no disorder.

Small crowds of the curious collected to witness the demonstration and appeared to be generally sympathetic with the movement. It was not long before the store capitulated with an agreement to hire colored help at once.

With the 5 and 10 cent store the request for colored employment was acceded to without any difficulty. Colored girls this week are behind the counters waiting on customers and will be placed on a full time basis as soon as they acquire sufficient experience. The store also has a colored janitor.

MAY 3 - 1941

Naturally encouraged by their success, members of the Job-finding Committee are going forward with redoubled zeal. Other stores with a large proportion of colored patronage are on the list to be picketed unless they agree to hire colored workers. "Don't buy where you can't work" says the committee; but equally they urge colored shoppers to buy their needs from the stores which employ colored help. Whenever you see a colored face behind the counter, go in and buy; and thus everybody can help the job finding campaign," committee members urged.

The New England Congress for Equal Opportunities, of which the Job Finding Committee is a part, was organized a half-dozen years ago. Attorney John R. Bourne is president. The Congress meets fortnightly on Wednesday nights throughout the year at 558 Mass. Ave. It is rated as the most active race-rights organization in the State. It welcomes to membership all persons who have at heart the alleviation of the oppressed.

MAY 3 - 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Bostonians Win Quick Job Victory

Mass

MAY 10 1941

BOSTON.—A victory against the jim crow employment policy of a large Stop and Shop chain store was won here Saturday, May 3, when the successful picketing campaign conducted by the Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities got results in less than two hours' time.

The picketing, a part of the Congress' larger campaign to get jobs for Negroes in the stores in Negro neighborhoods, was led by William Morgan and was to have continued indefinitely until the manager of the store agreed to hire a colored boy. The manager, however came to terms within the first two hours of the picketing.

Placards carried by many noted leaders of the community, representing strong organizations read, "Spend Your Dough Where There's No Jim Crow"; "Negroes on Both Sides of the Counter"; "No Jobs, No Justice."

MAY 10 1941

Among the picketers were: James Durkin, United Office and Professional Workers of America; Edward Jackson, Amalgamated Clothing Workers; Rev. Donald G. Lothrop; Boston Community church; Miss Zara DuPont; and Mr. and Mrs. James Hall. Organizations including A.F. of L. and C.I.O. unions, the Massachusetts Civil Liberties committee, and many smaller clubs gave their support to the movement.

Mass

35g

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Michigan Recognizes Merit

MAR 29 1941

359

MAR 29 1941

Reccognizing efficiency first, Michigan Democrats have elevated these four comely young ladies to important secretarial posts in the state capital at Lansing. Shown, left to right: Katherine Jones, secretary to Don Kenedy, state highway commissioner; Juanita Favors, corresponding secretary to Governor Murray D. Wagoner; Cleo Taylor, secretary to Commissioner of Labor and Industry, Harold E. Bledsoe; Virginia Yates, one of the secretaries to the Michigan State Senate of which Senator Charles C. Diggs of Detroit is a member.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Governor Urges Race Employment

MAR 5 - 1941

DETROIT, —(ANP) —Gov. Murray D. Van Wagner has sent letters to those companies in the state holding contracts for work under the national defense act urging that Negroes be given employment opportunities and on the job training.

His letter said in part: "I am convinced that in line with the whole national effort toward building an adequate defense, every opportunity should be given Negroes for work and on-the-job training Thousands of qualified Negro workers, registered with the Michigan State Employment Service, are anxious, able and available to contribute their share toward national safety.

"I strongly urge both employer and worker to extend to every loyal citizen, regardless of race or color, the right to participate in our industrial efforts of production for national defense.

359

This is the first message of its kind that had been sent by any of the governor to employers asking their cooperation in the employment of Negroes. the governor is further-lanning to emphasize the importance of this matter through the many addresses he is scheduled to make in the next few weeks.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A BLOW TO NEGRO LABOR

NOV 1 1941

The Hillman-A. F. of L. combine giving the William Green organization a virtual monopoly in the building trades is a blow not only at the Currier Lumber Company of Detroit but also against Negro workers.

Currier bid low by over $400,000 on a 300-unit housing project.

Currier recently came to terms with the CIO building unions which has been fighting the A. F. of L. building unions.

Thus Currier is a union firm the same as other bidders.

In addition, the CIO building union specifically states in its constitution that there must be no discrimination because of race, color or creed, and has a large number of Negro members.

Mich

Moreover, the Currier Company where the CIO has a closed shop, hires 60 Negro workers who are doing the same type of work as white men for the same pay and under the same working conditions.

The A. F. of L. building trades unions have been notoriously discriminatory against Negro workers, as every Negro mason, bricklayer, carpenter, plumber and cement finisher knows only too well.

These A. F. of L. building trades unions have not only discriminated against Negro skilled workers who were unorganized, but have discriminated against those who managed to get membership in A. F. of L. unions.

The CIO building trades union offered the Negro skilled workers the same opportunity other CIO unions offered to break into various work from which they had been virtually excluded.

Now comes Sidney Hillman, OPM co-boss and "liberal" head of the enlightened Amalgamated Clothing Workers, throwing out the Currier low bid on the ground that granting it would cause "war" between rival unions and thus delay the defense housing program.

This is in effect granting a monopoly to the A. F. of L. building unions which traditionally discriminate against Negroes, and is thus a blow at Negro labor.

The Hillman-A. F. of L. deal is so raw that Big Business is shouting to high heaven, but in view of the implications of the Hillman action, Negroes should be protesting louder than anybody else.

35g-1941
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

MISSOURI

All-Negro Staff on Job at Lincoln Branch Library

JAN 17 1941

For the first time in more than a decade, an all-Negro staff is on duty at the Lincoln high school branch library. The three librarians are shown here at the main desk of the library. Left to right, Miss Hilwe Pierce, newly appointed assistant librarian from Springfield, Mo.; Miss Mildred Kimbrough, who was promoted to the position of head librarian succeeding Miss Priscilla Burd, white; and Miss Capitola Jones, in charge of the children's room. —Robinson Photo.

Firm Which Moved to K.C. From Alabama Employs 60 Negroes

JAN 31 1941 The Call - K

While Kansas City Negro citizens are working night and day in an effort to induce local industries to employ Negro workmen, a pipe company recently moved here from Alabama, bringing its Negro crew with it.

The Alabama Pipe company, which, recently moved its plant into North Kansas City, employs 60 Negroes, about 30 of whom were brought here from Alabama. The others are local men hired since the plant moved here.

The pipe company produces cast iron sewerage and drain pipes. The Negro men are working as skilled moulders and as laborers.

E. O. Mason, superintendent of the plant, said that when the plant considered moving to Kansas City, the men working for it were promised jobs and the company kept that promise. The men hired in Kansas City were brought in by the company's employees.

The company operates an open shop, but an attempt **is being made to unionize the workers.**

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

SAME PAY FOR EMPLOYES AT K. C. HOSPITAL

Pay of White and Colored Workers of Same Class Equalized

MAR 14 1941 Mo

~~KANSAS CITY, Mo.~~ — Employes at General hospital No. 2 are wearing broad smiles these days and for good reason. Beginning March 1, they have been working under a new salary code which in a year's time will put $11,100 extra money into their pockets.

The new classification and compensation plan, recommended following the J. L. Jacobs survey, has been put into effect by City Manager L. P. Cookingham and the city council.

The new plans results in a $25,000 wage increase to city employes of which amount $925 a month or $11,100 a year goes to General No. 2.

Most of the 207 persons employed at the city hospital will receive wage hikes. Salaries at the No. 2 hospital have been put on a parity with those at General hospitail No. 1, persons doing the same type and amount of work at both hospitals receiving the same pay.

Instead of a fixed salary for the various classifications, the new code calls for a salary range for each position, a minimum and maximum figure being set for each job. For instance, waitresses who, under the old code received $480 a year, under the new code will receive from $540 to $660.

The range of salary allows for pay increases to those employes, the quality of whose work warrants them, and allows for individual differences in performance of work.

The equalization of salaries at the hospitals marks a step forward in the administration of city affairs under City Manager Cookingham and the new council. Although most of the pay increases were felt in the health department of which Dr. Hugh Dwyer is director, other city employes also are feeling slight raises.

The increases in pay will be shown on the March 15 checks.

Other examples of increases:

POSITION	OLD SALARY	NEW SALARY
Hospital Superintendent	$2,400	$3,300 to $4.200
Superintendent of Nurses	1,140	1,560 to 1,920
Clerk-typist	720	840 to 1,080
Asst. Supt. Nurses	1,056	1,200 to 1,440
Head Hospital Nurse		960 to 1,080
Waitresses	480	540 to 660
Night Superintendent	1,250	1,680 to 2,040
Resident Physician	900	900 to 1,140
Registered Nurse	1,080D	900 to 1,140
Hospital Attendant	540	600 to 720
Junior Resident Physician	600	600 to 840
Interne	240	240 to
Technician		780 to 1,020
Receiving Clerk	720	840 to 1,080
Telephone Operator	720	720 to 840
Medical Social Worker	1.056	1,200 to 1,440
Head Hospital Nurse	960	1.080 to 1,320
Graduate Nurse	900	780 to 1,020
Orderly	600	540 to 660
Dishwasher	480	540 to 660
Student Nurse	120	210
Elevator Operator	600	720 to 900
Laundress	480	540 to 660

MAR 14 1941

Kas., draft board No. 2 Mr. Ewing and the Wheatley board of directors sought deferrment for the business manager on the grounds that his position came under the classification of "necessary employment," but the draft board refused to defer him. Asking that Mr. Ewing be deferred, Dr. E. B. Perry, medical director of Wheatley, explained the scarcity of young Negroes trained in business administration.

Ewing's position has not been filled.

Dr. Lyman D. Browne, resident physician in the isolation ward of General hospital No. 2, has been appointed house physician at Wheatley, succeeding Dr. Schumate.

Dr. Browne, who has been here three years, is a graduate of the Meharry Medical college. His home is in Shreveport, La. He recently married Mary N. Leigh, who was graduated from the General hospital nursing school in December.

Dr. Schumate's appointment as CCC medical director is in line with the new policy of the government in assigning Negro medical officers to the Negro camps. He succeeds a white physician. There are three Negro CCC camps in Missouri, one at Florida, Mo., near Hannibal, one at Poplar-Bluff and the one at Delta.

Ewing was in New Orleans with Dr. Perry attending the annual session of the National Associatio nof hospital Administrat tion of Hospital Administrators when he learned that he had been drafted. He is one of the few trained administrators in this section of the country. Guy V. Davis, whom Ewing succeeded recently at Wheatley, is business manager at General hospital No. 2.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

MAYOR BECKER AND NEGRO JOBS

An interesting meeting was held in the conference room of Mayor Becker's offices Tuesday afternoon where jobs for Negroes were discussed. We observed that Mayor Becker was very enthusiastic in his discussion of the matter during which he said that "nothng can be done here to remedy the situation, as we have exhausted everything at our command".

Should we take the mayor at his word, then the matter of securing jobs on the Carr Square Village project for skilled Negro workers is closed so far as Mr. Becker is concerned and those of us who are interested in further breaking down union barriers must necessarily seek other avenues through which to accomplish our purpose. It is our belief that a suit in this case would lie.

Mo

But be that as it may, if Mayor Becker is as interested in justice and fair play toward his "Negro constituents" as was to be reasonably inferred from his remarks last Tuesday, then we would suggest that he make a Negro a member of his Civil Service Commission which he will appoint in a few days. We offer this suggestion because of the fact that a large number of Negroes voted against the Civil Service Amendment to the city charter for the reason that they thought they would not receive a square deal in their quest for city jobs through the Civil Service route. Therefore, we again appeal to the mayor to make this appointment for it would allay the fears of our group that its members will be discriminated against while qualifying for city positions.

Those were nice words of Mayor Becker's when he said that he was more interested in housing six hundred Negro families immediately than he was in jobs for two or three. But it is to be remembered that persons who are to be house in the Carr Square Village must have jobs and the appointment of a Negro as a member of the Civil Service Commission, will, we believe, help us in securing jobs.

OCT 3 1941

35g-1941

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

See Bitter Fight At NAPE Meeting

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—When the National Alliance of Postal Employees holds its eleventh bi-ennial session in Baltimore on Aug. 19, keen interest will be centered in the fight for the leadership of that organization.

At this early date, there are five candidates for the post of president; Lafayette F. Ford, who has held office for the past four years; Trazzvant Anderson, of the railway postal service, former columnist who was asked to choose between his newspaper work and the postal work not long ago; G. N. T. Gray. the welfare officer of the organization for five years; Percy L. Conrad, clerk in the Newark Post office and Percy R. Hines of Chicago, who for four years edited the Postal Alliance magazine.

Over a hundred delegates will assemble in Baltimore for the three day session to be held at the Sharp Street AME Church, representing the 70 branches of the alliance.

But the fight for the presidency is the chief center of interest especially here in Washington, where Mr. Gray has his office and has been actively engaged in the welfare of the 18,000 Negro postal employees for the past five years.

Recent issues of the official magazine of the organization have carried bitter vituperative articles assailing Mr. Gray and his record and he in turn has gone on record as saying he is ready to carry the fight for the election right on the floor of the convention.

According to the constitution of the Alliance, every member in good standing is privileged to vote for the national officers. This means that hundreds of ballots will have to be mailed out and returned to be counted before a new president can be determined.

AUG 5 1941

AUG 5 1941

35g-1941

NEW JERSEY

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Aids For Negro Is RCA Victor Plan

JAN 3 1941

More general application to Negro educational institutions of modern audio-visual developments in education is the aim of a nationwide survey among prominent Negro educators to be conducted during 1941 by the RCA Manufacturing Company.

Dallas A. Martin, St. Louis-born Lincoln University-educated Negro is soon to leave RCA Victor's Camden, N. J. headquarters on the first leg of a trip which will carry him into the executive offices and classrooms of hundreds of Negro schools, colleges and universities. The survey is being made under the direction of Ellsworth C. Dent, Director of the RCA Educational Department.

In addition to conducting the on-the-scene survey, Mr. Martin will lecture on such subjects as television, recorded music, how radio receiver is built, the new RCA Electron Microscope, the uses of a school sound system, and a merchandising presentation for business students, In addition, he will use several sound motion picture films.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

N. J. Employment Bias Offers Only Housework

LONG BRANCH, N. J.—The attempt of a local office of the New Jersey State Employment Service to register all colored women as household workers, regardless of their training and qualifications was stymied last week when Mrs. Lester Jackson was registered with the NJSES as a [illegible]A teacher.

1941

Action was begun on the case late last month when Mrs. Jackson attempted to register as a teacher but was told by Oliver R. Hatfield, manager of the Long Branch employment office that he had instructions "from higher up" to register colored women only as domestic workers.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Soldiers Bake Prize Winning Bread In Fair

POST BAKERY
OCT 18 1941
35g 1941

Technical Sergaant Henry J. Parkerton in chargeof the Post Bakery and two members of the shift that baked the prize winning bread entered in the New Jersey State Fair, Trenton, N. J. The bread won the blue ribbon in competition with other army units in the Second Corps Area.

OCT 18 1941

Left to Right: Pvt. Cyrus Avery, of New York City, a member of the 31st Quartermaster Regiment; Technical Sergeant Henry J. Parkerton and Private First Class Lewis Hixson of Cleveland, Ohio, a member of the 372nd Regiment Both are student bakers.

35g-1941

NEW YORK

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SUIT IS FILED BY 22 MEN

NEW YORK, Jan. 9—A suit involving alleged unpaid wages totaling $75,000 of 22 Pennsylvania "red cap" porters was filed here last week in Federal court.

Brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, it sought recovery of the minimum wages allegad to be due the men for their work from October 24, 1938, when the act took effect, until June 1 of 1940, when the company began paying regular wages to the porters, rather than have them rely partly on tips.

The complaint was filed by William McKelvey, 29 Broadway, attorney for Estelle Higgins, who entered the suit as administratrix of the estate of Stephen Lovine, her brother.

Attached to the complaint were authorizations from the porters to the late Mr. Lovine, empowering him to seek recovery of the wages allegedly due them.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Let Us Hear From New York

• Letters continue to pour in from the shops and factories to the Workers Correspondence section of the Daily Worker. We look forward to an even greater number of such reports, particularly from the large industrial center of New York City and its immediate vicinity.

FEB 26 1941

In the quickening of organizational activities, Workers Correspondence is proving its value with each passing week. In the stimulus which it is giving to union democracy, it is likewise making a marked contribution.

Such problems arise in every nook and cranny of New York. In the Greater City there are hundreds of large shops. The Food Industry is represented here by plants of no small dimensions. The machine shops and other metal trades factories are growing to a considerable degree. All around the city there are also enlarged developments in the "defense" industries.

FEB 26 1941

What is taking place in these shops and factories so far as the welfare of the workers is concerned? What of the speed-up? What of the wage scales? What is being done about Negro discrimination? What are the workers thinking and doing?

We appeal to our readers in New York City to enroll in the ranks of the workers' correspondents. They can perform a distinct service right now—in speeding organization of the unorganized, in advancing union democracy, in removing discrimination against Negroes. **Let us hear from New York in a big way.**

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

PLACING NEGRO INTERVIEWERS

JAN 25 1941

State Employment Offices Guarded Against Bias

James H. Hubert, executive director of the New York Urban League announced this week that Negro interviewers are to be assigned to every employment office of the State Employment Service in New York City to the end that Negro applicants may be better served and to guard against the tendency, on the part of interviewers, to refer only white applicants to jobs.

A committee of citizens including heads of social agencies, has been working for some time in co-operation with Charles A. Collier, industrial secretary of the league, to formulate plans for overcoming obstacles against Negro workers.

Members of the committee include:

Assemblyman William T. Andrews, Mrs. Carita Roane, manager, Harlem office, New York State Employment Service; W. D. Simmons, district supervisor, New York State Employment Service; Eardlie Johns, local branch, NAACP; Henry Pope, secretary, Committee on Negro Welfare of the Welfare Council; Henry Craft, executive secretary, Harlem YMCA.

Mrs. Edith M. Alexander, assistant director, Community Relations Division, Department of Welfare of New York City; Samuel A. Allen, supervisor of racial problems, New York State Department of Social Welfare; James H. Hubert, executive director; Richard Jefferson, and Charles A. Collier, industrial secretary of the New York Urban League.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

POSTAL EMPLOYS COLORED MANAGER

John Stackhouse Placed in Charge of Harlem Office Following Efforts of The Courier.

MAR 15 1941

By EDGAR T. ROUZEAU
(Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, Mar. 13.—~~The Pittsburgh Courier~~ was successful this week in securing the appointment of a colored manager for a Harlem branch office of the Postal Telegraph Company. John E. Stackhouse, employed as a clerk at the office at 125th street and Seventh avenue for the past four years, was placed in charge Monday morning, with a $20 monthly increase in pay. This is the first such appointment in Harlem.

35g

The appointment was requested sometime ago by William G. Nunn, managing editor of The Courier. Edwin F. Chinland, president of Postal Telegraph, in communications with Mr. Nunn, was found to be agreeable. A conference was then arranged between Edgar T. Rouzeau, manager of The Courier's New York office, and Mr. C. Hitchen, regional manager for Postal Telegraph. At this conference, held at 253 Broadway, The Courier received a definite commitment which had only to await the ironing out of technicalities.

MAR 15 1941

The manager's post at this particular office had been vacant a number of times in recent months. All officials of Postal Telegraph involved, including Mr. Hitchen, conceded that Mr. Stackhouse was eminently qualified, but in view of seniority rules as administered by Local 36-A of the American Communications Commission, CIO, Mr. Stackhouse was ruled ineligible and the appointment could not be made. All vacancies are filled from a seniority list, and men may be switched from one office to another as long as the transfer does not involve any loss in pay. Mr. Stackhouse's name was found to be far down the list.

MAR 15 1941

In conferences with union delegates, Mr. Hitchen requested an exception in the case of Mr. Stackhouse. Last week the union consented to waive its seniority rules in this instance as an expression of liberality towards colored workers. Union delegates conceded the point that, irrespective of seniority, a colored Postal Telegraph worker would hardly be considered for a more lucrative post in one of the downtown offices.

Stackhouse, a native New Yorker, is 27 years of age and married. He was educated at George Washington High School, Virginia Union University, City College of New York, and was studying business administration at New York University School of Commerce when he was given his opportunity with Postal Telegraph in 1937.

The office which he heads is located in front of the Hotel Theresa, and is the only one accessible to Harlemites between 110th and 181st streets, Fifth avenue and Riverside drive. The office has a staff of three day clerks, one night clerk and eight mesengers. All of the messengers are colored, but all of the clerks were white with the exception of Mr. Stackhouse. Officials of the company have promised to train one of the colored messengers to take over the clerkship vacated by Mr. Stackhouse.

MAR 15 1941

Acting on instructions from Mr. Nunn, the managing editor, The Courier's New York manager has begun negotiations with a view to obtaining similar appointments with Western Union. One of the weighty factors in all discussions to date has been the volume of business which The Courier is in position to give to either company. The Courier is the largest user of wire services in the colored newspaper field.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Harlem Provides The Cue

MAY 4 - 1941

HARLEM has scored another victory in its fight for jobs for colored workers. This time it was for drivers and mechancis in the bus companies of New York.

After a few buses were overturned and the bus companies were given to understand that Negroes meant business, 170 jobs were given to them immediately with the signed agreement that the number would be increased to 500 of the 3,000 jobs provided by the companies.

The colored people in New York took their cue from Negroes in Chicago who provided them with the idea that where one's money is spent it aids in supplying employment and he should have something to say over the complexion of those who are so employed. Chicago Negroes made a certain degree of success with their ideas, drifted into an attitude of self-satisfaction and proceeded to pull their punches. New York Negroes pursued their ideas according to the best techniques of labor and business. They got signatures and agreements of employers.

It would seem that Harlem has taken the idea away from us, added to it and is reaping considerable benefit in the acquisition of new positions.

MAY 4 - 1941

Chicago Negroes launched a campaign to secure jobs from the street car and bus companies. Something happened and the campaign exhausted itself. Perhaps the proper techniques were not used. Maybe Harlem should be called upon to provide us with the newest techniques in obtaining positions which we help maintain but fail to secure. Harlem appears to have gone professional in that respect.

There is no reason why Negroes should not have more of the jobs on the street cars, elevated trains and buses in this city. After all our money is responsible for a good many of the employees salaries. It doesn't seem altogether logical for one to maintain jobs for others while he himself is in need of one. That is what the colored people are doing in Chicago. They are providing white employees of the several transportation companies with jobs but are not employed except as flunkies. As a matter of fact, Negroes ought to be employed in every department of these concerns. They should be employed in the offices, on the buses, street cars, elevated trains, in the barns and in the garages.

Is is possible to obtain such employment. It requires a little effort. It requires a little

---

leadership—uncompromising, persistent and earnest.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

First Bus Jobs Bringing Harlem $1000 Monthly

MAY 10 194

NEW YORK. — Harlem's income has already been increased $1000 monthly as a result of the bus strike agreement, according to the co-chairman of the Greater New York Co-ordinating Committee for Employment, Drs. William Lloyd Imes and A. Clayton Powell Jr.

MAY 10 194

The New York City Omnibus Corporation, the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the Transport Workers' Union are living up to the agreement, the committee reported Saturday, and seven men have been employed already in the maintenance division. Scores of applicants have been approved and are awaiting openings.

Union Takes in All

E. C. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the corporation, has indicated that the first crew of ten drivers will be chosen next week and placed in training immediately. All men are being accepted into the Transport Workers' Union as soon as they are employed.

Dr. Powell, stated that the lowest wage paid any of the maintenance men is $25 per week, and the two top men, Claude V. Smith and Alvin A. Amos, are receiving $1.40 per hour as first-line mechanics, or $67 for a 48-hour week.

Larger Income Seen

Mr. Smith, who is 38 and lives at 2637 Seventh Avenue, is a first-grade Diesel engine mechanic. He is married and has four children. Mr. Amos is 34, married and lives at 430 Vanderbilt Avenue, Brooklyn.

It is estimated that by the middle of the summer enough men will have been employed to boost the total monthly earnings to $10,000.

Joe Ford, captain of the pickets during the strike and now the placement secretary, pointed out that the campaign cost the people of Harlem a little over $500 in all.

MAY 10 1941

May Launch Chicago Drive

Dr. Powell, is going to Chicago on May 12 to speak for the Negro Labor Relations League, at which time it is expected that a campaign will be launched for similar jobs there.

The Co-ordinating Committee is planning to direct its employment efforts toward chain five-and-ten-cent stores, clothing stores, finance companies, credit houses, insurance, cigarette and soft drink companies.

John Sandifer, 327 Edgecombe Avenue, has already been employed as public relations man on salary and commission, for Philip Morris cigarettes.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HIGHEST JOB FOR NEGRO IN MAIL SERVICE

DEC 6 1941

NEW YORK, Dec. 4—New York's first colored post office employe to rise above the grade of clerk, Alexander King, was promoted last Monday to the post of Assistant Superintendent of Mails and is believed to be the highest position ever attained by a colored postal employe.

In announcing the promotion, Postmaster Albert Goldman paid high tribute to the service rendered by Mr. King in his half century of work in various capacities in the New York post office. King will have charge of nine branch offices and direct supervision over thousands of workers. He will receive an annual salary of $3,500.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Prospective Motormen Examined For Jobs As N. Y. Bus Groups Agree

MAY 8 - 1941

Racial discrimination was dealt a severe blow this week when the New York Bus Company hired mechanics and bus drivers to drive their buses.

Almost immediately after the action of the New York Company, the Cleveland Railway Company announced that they would accept applications from Negroes desirous of being motormen.

The new history-making policy of the Cleveland group was announced by President F. H. Hanrahan. Over 500 men milled around the offices of the company, seeking to enter their names on the list.

MAY 8 - 1941

No Explanation

Officers of the Railway Company offered no explanation of their precedent-making announcement, save to state that the company was determined to give all classes of its patrons an opportunity to participate in the company program.

MAY 8 - 1941

In past years a number of organizations have consistently appealed to the Railway Company to give Negroes full employment, which until the new policy, with the exception of one Negro motorman, was restricted to common labor classifications.

Company officials stated that several dozen men would be hired, preferably those with mechanical experience.

Meanwhile in New York thirty chauffeurs were sent to the bus company by Joe Ford of the United Negro Bus Association. Only five Negroes were actually employed as mechanic helpers in maintenance shops but more are to be employed as vacancies occur.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Subway Newsstands To Employ Negroes

DEC 4 - 1941

Rev. Powell Hails Action By Interboro News Co.

In Harlem Subways

The Greater N. Y. Coordinating Committee, for employment of which Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Councilman of the City of New York, is chairman, announced yesterday that the Interboro News Co. will employ Negroes in its Harlem area. The first stand to go entirely colored is now in the process of being set up at the 125th St. Independent Subway Station. This stand operates on a twenty-four-hour basis.

Dr. Powell was approached by Mr. Herbert Meyer, vice-president of the Interboro News Co., who expressed to him a desire to see that Negroes share in job opportunities in New York.

DEC 4 - 1941

Details of the arrangement were worked out by Mr. Joseph E. Ford and Mr. Ralph Higger, Director of Personnel of Interboro News Co. The Interboro News Co. has the contract for all the newsstands in all the subway stations of the system operated by New York City. The particular territories opened up for opportunities for Negro workers will include stations at 110, 116, 125, 135, 145 and 155th Sts. This system is completely unionized. The United Periodical Employees Union Local 609, CIO, is accepting the Negro workers for membership as rapidly as they are being hired by the Interboro News Company.

POWELL HAILS GAIN

Dr. Powell in a statement said:

"It is actions like this on the part of Mr. Herbert Meyer and those he represents, the Interboro News Co., which make democracy real. If other employers had the same idea of democracy as these officials have shown there would be a rapid disappearance of the many economic conditions that now cause the so-called 'crime wave.'"

"The Greater N. Y. Coordinating Committee over the past four years through conferences with representatives of Liggett's drug stores, Consolidated Edison, N. Y. Telephone Co., N. Y. City Omnibus Corp., Phillip Morris Cigarettes, Hoffman and Canada Dry Beverage Co., and many other small businesses, has so increased the job opportunities of Negroes in N. Y. City to date that the annual income secured by its efforts is close to $1,000,000 per year," he declared.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Macy May Hire Negro Clerks

Personnel Director Soon To Announce Store's Employment Policy

OCT 18 1941

A far reaching change in the employment policies of R. H. Macy & Co., reputedly the world's largest department store in New York City, affecting Negroes was said to be awaiting the formulation of details, according to F. G. Atkinson, personnel director of the company.

OCT 18 1941

Mrs. Rosalie Henderson, administrative secretary of the National Negro Congress, who discussed the employment of Negro sales and office workers with Mr. Atkinson recently, told The Amsterdam Star-News Wednesday that Mr. Atkinson promised that Macy's would take the lead in abolishing discrimination in the large department stores of the city, and that any person applying for employment may feel that their application will receive the same consideration as that of any other applicant.

OCT 18 1941

The drive to put Negro sales girls and office workers behind the counters and desks of the local department stores was renewed as a result of the recent Gimbel Brothers' strike. Other department stores have been approached, Mrs. Henderson said. At Bloomingdale's, Catherine H. Greer, personnel manager, denied discrimination against the Negro but said that the firm reserves the right to choose applicants according to qualifications. She agreed to interview Negro girls for sales and office jobs.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Crack Negro Riveting Crews Show How to Build Ships the Fast Way

NOV 17 1941

New York, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Shipyard Workers

Having recently returned from Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock shipyard, I was very much impressed by the high quality of the work turned out there and by the fact that most of the work was well ahead of schedule.

When I commented on the excellent riveting done in comparison with other yards, the foreman replied that all riveting was done by Negroes.

Of all the employees in the yard, easily 50 per cent were Negroes.

This yard is company union but I daresay, it is only because of the poor tactics used in trying to organize these men into the AFL or CIO, as one day the CIO "Shipyard Worker" will be distributed and the next day the AFL distributes their paper which resorts chiefly to blasting the CIO.

This should clearly indicate how thousands of workers throughout the nation are hesitating to affiliate with a labor organization due to the split in the labor movement. Today it is the duty of the rank and file to strive to unite the labor movement, so that they may organize the millions of unorganized workers of America.

If this shipyard were organized, certainly no worker would work 16 to 24 hours as often happens, without getting as much as a hot cup of coffee or a hot meal, as these men cannot leave the yard while on duty.

It should be part of our struggle to see that management of yards such as this install cafeterias or portable canteens with winter approaching. Such things have a bearing on a worker's health and productivity.

One thing that costs the public millions of dollars and countless precious hours of valuable time is the fact that many ships are contracted for, and prior to the ship's completion, the Navy or Army will take the ship soon after it is placed in service.

NOV 17 1941

Instead of the Navy or Maritime Commission altering the ship PRIOR to its completion as contracted for, the ship is completed, the Army or Navy then spends weeks in altering the superstructure to suit their particular needs.

With a bit of foresight this needless expenditure can be eliminated, enabling these men to work on more ships, vitally needed to transport supplies to our hard pressed Allies in their fight to exterminate Hitlerism.

NMU Seaman.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Negro Made Great Gains On 125th St. in Past Decade

By A. M. WENDELL MALLIET

To the colored people of Manhattan the 111th celebration of West 125th Street gets its meaning only as a result of what has happened in the street during the past 25 years. Of course, many important changes have occurred in this community, but here the assignment is to look into or over the changes which have involved the employment possibilities of Negroes in this important uptown business and shopping center.

NOV 25 1941

The employment of Negroes in 125th Street stores is now a fact. Although to some persons the number is still below a fair percentage, the truth is, the Negro has been established as an integral part of the business life of the street, and there is little chance of further losses of gains made in the past. The relationship between white employer and Negro employee and that between the employees of both races have grown to a most healthy condition.

That the Negro obtained employment in the street after several bitter clashes and years of struggle should in no way interfere with the gains made. The whole process has been one of education in interracial cooperation, and both sides have been the beneficiaries. More important, however, than the mere getting of jobs that pay decent wages and give inspiration to those who desire white collar employment, is the training school that the street has provided.

NOV 25 1941

If, as and when the large department stores downtown let down the barriers of discrimination against the Negro, and our girls and young men are given employment as sales girls and office workers, it seems reasonable to believe that those workers who received their training in 125th Stret will be given preference. In addition, there is the training that is being provided for those who will sooner or later desire to establish their own business enterprises.

Whatever the result, it seems certain that 125th Street, with its limited opportunities for Negro white collar employment, will prove of great value to the Negro of New York City. Men of broad vision and adequate qualities of leadership know that "experience teaches wisdom," and that there is nothing worthwhile to be gained from harking back to the evils of the past, except in so far as they assist honest men and women to build a better future.

Today, regardless of whether it is the militant labor organization or the short-sighted and selfish employer, all the forces and elements in the street are settling down to an "age of reason" and policies of fair-play. There is hardly a single store that employs more two persons, excluding near relatives, which does not hire one or more Negro clerks. This means progress to the white employer, to the Negro worker, and to the consumers of all races.

Closing its 111 years in peace and with a fair measure of prosperity, 125th Street may look forward to at least its second 100 years with hope and confidence.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes 'Hopeful' for Jobs at Bloomingdale

Job Fight Wins Interviews At Dep't Store; Other Stores Evade Issue

NOV 10 1941

Negro women may soon be employed as salesgirls and clerks by Bloomingdale's, Horace Marshall, vice-president of the Manhattan Council, National Negro Congress, said yesterday. Prospects for such employment by other big stores were less promising, he declared, basing his observation on results of recent interviews with representatives of James McCreery & Co. and R. H. Macy & Co. He described the campaign for jobs as a fight also against fascism.

Mr. Marshall and other members of the Congress were told by Mrs. Catherine H. Greer, employment manager of Bloomingdale's, that this store had never discriminated against Negroes in employment but that the store reserved the right "to select."

The National Negro Congress assured Mrs. Greer that it did not object to Bloomingdale's right to select employes and that, in view of the fact that the store had "no policy of discrimination" and was "willing to select workers on the basis of qualification," the Congress would see to it that she, as employment manager, would soon be visited by specially qualified young Negro women seeking interviews, Mr. Marshall said.

Mrs. Greer agreed personally to interview all young women sent by the Congress, according to Mr. Marshall, and, so far, has kept her promise. Some of the applicants, he said, are reported to have exhibited exceptional skill in tests.

Some of the girls were requested to report again to Mrs. Greer early in November. Mr. Marshall interpreted this as "promising."

The Congress' department-store job and anti-Hitler campaign followed immediately after settlement of the recent Gimbel strike. Requests for conference were sent to McCreery's, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Gimbels and other big New York department stores. Conferences for discussing Negro employment were later arranged with the first three.

The service superintendent of McCreery's told a Congress delegation that discrimination against Negroes did not exist there, and he "proved" it, Mr. Marshall said, by showing that the store employed two Negro maids and "contemplated" employing two Negro night porters. It was explained by the service superintendent that hiring Negro salesgirls and office workers must be done in an "evolutionary" rather than in a "revolutionary" manner. Immediate hiring of Negroes in those capacities, it was said, would be "revolutionary."

NOV 10 1941

The personnel manager of Macy's promised, to send the National Negro Congress a statement of policy with respect to personnel, suggesting that it could be as publicity in the Congress' job campaign. To date, the statement has not come, in spite of repeated requests for it.

Mr. Marshall yesterday described the fight for the right of Negroes to work as salespeople and clerks in department stores as a fight against Hitler "and against fascism in general."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

125th Street Jamboree Recalls Early Harlem

OCT 25 1941

By GEORGE HARRIS
Executive Director Association of Trade and Commerce

THE celebration by the Uptown Chamber of Commerce and the Amsterdam Star-News of the one hundred and eleventh anniversary of 125th Street, which begins Friday, Oct. 24, must strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all Harlem. From the days of the settlement of New Amsterdam and its farmers in New Harlem by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant and Peter Minuit in the early seventeenth century, this great community has been the melting pot of the races. Then it was that the great Harlem plantations stretching Islandwide from the Henrich Hudson River to the Harlem River and Spuyten Duyvil Creek, began the employment of black farmhands and house servants.

Scant and incidental but, pieced together, eloquent is the testimony of the historians and diarists and authors of the part they played in the building and blossoming of the sprawling country community. It is recorded in these sources from which the New York State Historical Society and Stokes Inconography gather their authority that unnumbered farms were finally owned and operated by manumitted slaves and indentured servants. From those ancient days down to the settlement of Washington Heights after the Revolution as recorded by such authorities as Boulton in "Washington Heights, Manhattan, Its Eventful Past," the record remains the same.

OCT 25 1941

Left Glorious Heritage

What a glorious heritage has colored Harlem in the service of their forebears in the war of the Revolution under the command of General George Washington! His adjutant general, Alexander Scrammell's reports reveal that in all his regiments there was an average of thirty-five colored soldiers in each. Colored New Yorkers then, to the number of five thousands, refused the blandishments and promise of freedom by the British General Howe and two thousand of them were brutally interned in Staten Island as the price of their loyalty and devotion to the cause of their country's independence.

There were more than seven hundred black colonials in the disastrous and bloody defeat of the army of General Washington in the battle of Long Island. William Lloyd Garrison in his stirring story "Loyalty and Devotion of Colored Americans in the Revolution," tells of the disinterring of the bones of many of these black martyrs of the battle of Long Island during the excavation, years later, for the foundation of the Broadway Bazaar Department Store.

OCT 25 1941

Saved Washington's Life

Black Sam Fraunces, a patriot, founded the present exclusive Fraunces Tavern in Bowling Green from which George Washington took his memorable farewell of his Revolutionary generals in 1783. Thus says Bayles in his "Old Taverns of New York." Black Sam Fraunces' daughter, housekeeper at the Richmond Hill, Long Island, headquarters of General Washington—according to the proceedings for the hearing June 22-26, 1776—exposed the conspiracy of the Hickey Plot against the life of Washington and thus not only saved his life, but forsooth the life of the embryonic American Republic.

No brighter page in the lexicon of the Revolution stems the pride and gratitude of all Harlem, white and black, than that which tells the saga of the part the black colonials played in the masterly retreat of General Washington from Long Island across Manhattan Island and from the battle of Harlem Heights—fought on the terrain beginning on the present site of Columbia University—to the Bronx and his glorious victory in Westchester. In gory rear guard actions with their comrades, they stayed the oncoming tides of the British Red Coats throughout the gruesome running battle to the North. Then volunteering squadrons of them alone manned Fort Negro and Fort Independence near the end of the Grand Concourse — according to Jenkins' "The Story of the Bronx" and Reginald Pelham's "Fort Independence" — permitting General Washington to withdraw his decimated battalions to Stony Point and to triumph.

Thus the colored troops, forerunners of the glorious Harlem Hell Fighters of World War No. 1, sanctified with their blood, Harlem to the cause of freedom and sanctified Harlem with their blood to the cause of freedom and Americans.

When the cornerstones of 125th Street were laid one hundred and eleven years ago, many of the sons and daughters of the brave black boys who fought and died in the battles of Long Island and Harlem Heights were living in peace and friendship in Manhattanville by the side of the sons and daughters of their Revolutionary comrades. Grandparents of the late Harlem leader, Thomas Murray, as he was wont to tell, played in Manhattanville with their colored mates just as his grandchildren are Harlem schoolmates of their grandchildren play today. Then, as now, 125th Street was the business artery and nerve centre of all Harlem.

Since Broadway was a pasture and 125th Street was a lane, the picture has not greatly changed. With negligible exceptions the two races in Harlem have always lived in harmony together. Thus, they have known each other and respected each other. Since the influx to Harlem of old colored New Yorkers and others from the South and West Indies, the complexion of Harlemites has changed, but not the love of home and country, and fellow-Americans.

Thus it was that when, at the time of the World War No. 1, the other metropolises of the nation were bathed in the blood of bitter race riots, New York and Harlem were immune. Thus it has been that hundreds of Harlem teachers have long been teaching New York's children in all the public schools of New York. Thanks primarily to the ilustrious Governor Theodore Roosevelt and the lamented colored former associate editor of the Amsterdam News, T. Thomas Fortune. Thus it has become that there are many score colored policemen and firemen whose blue uniforms are equally respected. Thus there are colored judges from Harlem whose word is law in the lower courts and colored commissioners from Harlem functioning in high places in the government of the city of New York.

Now Harlem celebrates the anniversary of its main street at, and as the beginning of a new era of race cooperation. It is the celebration of the wedding in spirit and in fact of the consuming and the buying power of Harlem. It is a demonstration of the all-one-body-we American ideal, after which all America may well pattern. That those may work where they live and buy is the fundamental reality of the solution of the problem which Harlem business is demonstrating. That those who buy must also sell is also the foundation of a sound group economy, is another lesson consuming Harlem is rapidly learning.

That the grand object lesson of successful racial cooperation which Harlem today presents may prevail upon all America in this hour of national and world crisis, must be the prayer of all those who would have democracy prevail and civilization endure. In this spirit, not only Harlem but America must conquer.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes 'Hopeful' for Jobs at Bloomingdale

Job Fight Wins Interviews At Dep't Store; Other Stores Evade Issue

NOV 10 1941

Negro women may soon be employed as salesgirls and clerks by Bloomingdale's, Horace Marshall, vice-president of the Manhattan Council, National Negro Congress, said yesterday. Prospects for such employment by other big stores were less promising, he declared, basing his observation on results of recent interviews with representatives of James McCreery & Co. and R. H. Macy & Co. He described the campaign for jobs as a fight also against fascism.

Mr. Marshall and other members of the Congress were told by Mrs. Catherine H. Greer, employment manager of Bloomingdale's, that this store had never discriminated against Negroes in employment but that the store reserved the right "to select."

The National Negro Congress assured Mrs. Greer that it did not object to Bloomingdale's right to select employes and that, in view of the fact that the store had "no policy of discrimination" and was "willing to select workers on the basis of qualification," the Congress would see to it that she, as employment manager, would soon be visited by specially qualified young Negro women seeking interviews, Mr. Marshall said.

NOV 10 1941

Mrs. Greer agreed personally to interview all young women sent by the Congress, according to Mr. Marshall, and, so far, has kept her promise. Some of the applicants, he said, are reported to have exhibited exceptional skill in tests.

Some of the girls were requested to report again to Mrs. Greer early in November. Mr. Marshall interpreted this as "promising."

The Congress' department-store job and anti-Hitler campaign followed immediately after settlement of the recent Gimbel strike. Requests for conference were sent to McCreery's, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Gimbels and other big New York department stores. Conferences for discussing Negro employment were later arranged with the first three.

The service superintendent of McCreery's told a Congress delegation that discrimination against Negroes did not exist there, and he "proved" it, Mr. Marshall said, by showing that the store employed two Negro maids and "contemplated" employing two Negro night porters. It was explained by the service superintendent that hiring Negro salesgirls and office workers must be done in an "evolutionary" rather than in a "revolutionary" manner. Immediate hiring of Negroes in those capacities, it was said, would be "revolutionary."

NOV 10 1941

The personnel manager of Macy's promised, to send the National Negro Congress a statement of policy with respect to personnel, suggesting that it could be as publicity in the Congress' job campaign. To date, the statement has not come, in spite of repeated requests for it.

Mr. Marshall yesterday described the fight for the right of Negroes to work as salespeople and clerks in department stores as a fight against Hitler "and against fascism in general."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

125th Street Jamboree Recalls Early Harlem

OCT 25 1941

By GEORGE HARRIS
Executive Director Association of Trade and Commerce

THE celebration by the Uptown Chamber of Commerce and the Amsterdam Star-News of the one hundred and eleventh anniversary of 125th Street, which begins Friday, Oct. 24, must strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all Harlem. From the days of the settlement of New Amsterdam and its farmers in New Harlem by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant and Peter Minuit in the early seventeenth century, this great community has been the melting pot of the races. Then it was that the great Harlem plantations stretching Islandwide from the Henrich Hudson River to the Harlem River and Spuyten Duyvil Creek, began the employment of black farm-hands and house servants.

Scant and incidental but, pieced together, eloquent is the testimony of the historians and diarists and authors of the part they played in the building and blossoming of the sprawling country community. It is recorded in these sources from which the New York State Historical Society and Stokes Inconography gather their authority that unnumbered farms were finally owned and operated by manumitted slaves and indentured servants. From those ancient days down to the settlement of Washington Heights after the Revolution as recorded by such authorities as Boulton in "Washington Heights, Manhattan, Its Eventful Past," the record remains the same.

OCT 25 1941

Left Glorious Heritage

What a glorious heritage has colored Harlem in the service of their forebears in the war of the Revolution under the command of General George Washington! His adjutant general, Alexander Scrammell's reports reveal that in all his regiments there was an average of thirty-five colored soldiers in each. Colored New Yorkers then, to the number of five thousands, refused the blandishments and promise of freedom by the British General Howe and two thousand of them were brutally interned in Staten Island as the price of their loyalty and devotion to the cause of their country's independence.

There were more than seven hundred black colonials in the disastrous and bloody defeat of the army of General Washington in the battle of Long Island. William Lloyd Garrison in his stirring story "Loyalty and Devotion of Colored Americans in the Revolution," tells of the disinterring of the bones of many of these black martyrs of the battle of Long Island during the excavation, years later, for the foundation of the Broadway Bazaar Department Store.

OCT 25 1941

Saved Washington's Life

Black Sam Fraunces, a patriot, founded the present exclusive Fraunces Tavern in Bowling Green from which George Washington took his memorable farewell of his Revolutionary generals in 1783. Thus says Bayles in his "Old Taverns of New York." Black Sam Fraunces' daughter, housekeeper at the Richmond Hill, Long Island, headquarters of General Washington—according to the proceedings for the hearing June 22-26, 1776—exposed the conspiracy of the Hickey Plot against the life of Washington and thus not only saved his life, but forsooth the life of the embryonic American Republic.

No brighter page in the lexicon of the Revolution stems the pride and gratitude of all Harlem, white and black, than that which tells the saga of the part the black colonials played in the masterly retreat of General Washington from Long Island across Manhattan Island and from the battle of Harlem Heights—fought on the present terrain beginning on the present site of Columbia University—to the Bronx and his glorious victory in Westchester. In gory rear guard actions with their comrades, they stayed the oncoming tides of the British Red Coats throughout the gruesome running battle to the North. Then volunteering squadrons of them alone manned Fort Negro and Fort Independence near the end of the Grand Concourse — according to Jenkins' "The Story of the Bronx" and Reginald Pelham's "Fort Independence" — permitting General Washington to withdraw his decimated battalions to Stony Point and to triumph.

Thus the colored troops, forerunners of the glorious Harlem Hell Fighters of World War No. 1, sanctified with their blood, Harlem to the cause of freedom and sanctified Harlem with their blood to the cause of freedom and Americans.

When the cornerstones of 125th Street were laid one hundred and eleven years ago, many of the sons and daughters of the brave black boys who fought and died in the battles of Long Island and Harlem Heights were living in peace and friendship in Manhattanville by the side of the sons and daughters of their Revolutionary comrades. Grandparents of the late Harlem leader, Thomas Murray, as he was wont to tell, played in Manhattanville with their colored mates just as his grandchildren are Harlem schoolmates of their grandchildren play today. Then, as now, 125th Street was the business artery and nerve centre of all Harlem.

Since Broadway was a pasture and 125th Street was a lane, the picture has not greatly changed. With negligible exceptions the two races in Harlem have always lived in harmony together. Thus, they have known each other and respected each other. Since the influx to Harlem of old colored New Yorkers and others from the South and West Indies, the complexion of Harlemites has changed, but not the love of home and country, and fellow-Americans.

Thus it was that when, at the time of the World War No. 1, the other metropolises of the nation were bathed in the blood of bitter race riots, New York and Harlem were immune. Thus it has been that hundreds of Harlem teachers have long been teaching New York's children in all the public schools of New York. Thanks primarily to the illustrious Governor Theodore Roosevelt and the lamented colored former associate editor of the Amsterdam News, T. Thomas Fortune. Thus it has become that there are many score colored policemen and firemen whose blue uniforms are equally respected. Thus there are colored judges from Harlem whose word is law in the lower courts and colored commissioners from Harlem functioning in high places in the government of the city of New York.

Now Harlem celebrates the anniversary of its main street at, and as the beginning of a new era of race cooperation. It is the celebration of the wedding in spirit and in fact of the consuming and the buying power of Harlem. It is a demonstration of the all-one-body-we American ideal, after which all America may well pattern. That those may work where they live and buy is the fundamental reality of the solution of the problem which Harlem business is demonstrating. That those who buy must also sell is also the foundation of a sound group economy, is another lesson consuming Harlem is rapidly learning. That the grand object lesson of successful racial cooperation which Harlem today presents may prevail upon all America in this hour of national and world crisis, must be the prayer of all those who would have democracy prevail and civilization endure. In this spirit, not only Harlem but America must conquer.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

35g-1941

NEW YORK

Maceo A. Thomas Completes 15 Years With Dobbins Coal Co.; First Negro Salesman

By WILLIAM E. CLARK

Those who think the drive for jobs in neighborhood business concerns is new are very much mistaken, for this campaign has been one of continuous agitation for the past two decades. As witness the case of Maceo A. Thomas, salesman extraordinary, who recently celebrated fifteen years with one firm.

When Mr. Thomas started selling coal in 1925 for the Dobbins Coal Company he was the first of his race to hold such a position. That he made good is evidenced by the progress the company has made since that time and the promotions he has received. Formerly serving only uptown Manhattan and the Bronx, the company combined with the Trinity Coal Company, a few years ago to become known as the Dobbins-Trinity Coal Co., Inc., and now serves four of New York's five boroughs—Manhattan, Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn.

When Mr. Thomas started with the company very few Negroes were able to secure credit. Largely through his efforts credit is no longer based on race with this company. Also through his efforts a number of jobs for salesmen have been opened up to colored people in this field.

Recently the company sent out a notice to its customers announcing that Mr. Thomas, formerly located at 2306 Seventh avenue, has accepted the management of the Manhattan Sales office of the company located at 2215 Madison avenue at 138th street and the Harlem River.

In larger and more commodious quarters after two years operating his own sales office at 2306 Seventh avenue, Mr. Thomas was interviewed last week by The New York Age and told this reporter that he considered his biggest achievement during his long career with the Dobbins-Trinity Company not the fact that he had personally made good and had the full confidence of his superiors and fellow-workers, but that he had opened up jobs to colored salesmen. And at the present time ha dopenings for several qualified young men willing to work hard and make a career as a salesman.

MACEO A. THOMAS

"I think it's time that Negroes get into the 'heavy' industries," said Mr. Thomas. "I would like to see Negroes owning coal barges and operating coal companies, but we must first learn the business," he concluded.

Mr. Thomas in a tour of their Harlem River plant, pointed out how all the coal pockets are screened to assure clean fuel. Service and reliability which he said is the most economical are of paramount importance in selling coal, Mr. Thomas said and his company is fully prepared to solve your fuel problems.

He said his company could also serve the public in fuel oil, and its engineering department offered a free service to the public on fuel problems of all kinds.

A native of Maryland, where he still has a farm, Mr. Thomas is a graduate of Cornell University and has been quite actinve in the work of the New York Urban League, through whom he secured his appointment with the coal company, the Harlem Y.M.C.A. and the Catholic Inter-racial Movement.

Associated with him in his business is Miss Mildred Scott, formerly with the Dunbar National Bank, who is his secretary, and a staff of salesmen which includes several Harlemites.

Among Mr. Thomas's customers, in addition to many Negro homeowners are such well known institutions as the Broadway Savings Bank, the Hotel Theresa and many of the apartment buildings owned or managed by H. Alhouse, Inc., real estate company.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Hold Hearings Here On Employment And Wages Of Red Caps

Under direction of Thomas Holland, director of the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Deparment of Labor, hearings are now being held in the chambers of the City Council on wage and employment conditions among red caps as recently ordered by a Senate resolution.

The hearings opened at 10 a. m., Monday at City Hall with Mr. Holland assisted by L. L. Holstein in the examination of five red cap witnesses, two from Boston and 3 from Providence.

All of the witnesses testified that the 10 cents per bag charge had proven not only a hardship to red caps but had come to be regarded by the public as a nuisance. They also declared that railroad company agents had tried to intimidate them.

It is expected that the hearings will extend over most of the week with testimony covering employment of red caps in all of the railroad terminals in New York, Buffalo, Toledo, Rochester, Albany, Syracuse, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Willard S. Townsend, international president of the United America, is in the city from Chicago to participate in the hearings and on Monday cross-examined witnesses on the effects of 10 cents a bag charge which the railroad companies instituted.

The New York hearing is the third of a series extending over the country, previous hearings having been held in Chicago and St. Louis.

AUG 25 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Negro Engineer Gets Job As Technician With Metallic Corp.

Charles W. Bingham, of [illegible] Chauncey street, Brooklyn, young Negro graduate in mechanical engineering of Pratt Institute, was placed Monday as a technician with the Sherron Metallic Corporation, of 1201 Flushing avenue, Brooklyn, manufacturers of sheet metal products, it was announced this week by the New York Urban League, according to Charles A. Collier, industrial secretary.

Mr. Bingham is the first Negro to be employed by this company, and will do layout work from plans and specifications, which requires a mechanical engineering background.

P. H. Sherron, president of the company, has given assurance that Mr. Bingham will have opportunity for advancement to higher engineering positions in accordance with his ability and experience. Mr. Bingham has had no previous engineering experience.

Mr. Sherron plans to immediately employ another Negro technician in a similar capacity, and is considering several applicants recommended by the New York Urban League. The employment of two Negro technicians is the first step in the company's plans to hire a proportionate share of skilled Negro workers in the plant, Mr. Sherron informed the New York Urban League.

Cabby Turns In A $9 Tip

AUG 27 1941

Lester Stokes, [illegible], a Negro cab driver of [illegible] Lenox Ave., walked into the E. [illegible]h St. station house yesterday and handed Lieut. John [illegible] a $1[illegible]. It had been given him, he explained, for an 80-cent fare and a 10-cent tip and he had not noticed it was a [illegible] until the passenger had departed.

Two hours and a half later in walked Michael Calabrese, 30, of 327 E. 12th St., with a $5 bill and the same story. The bills are at the station awaiting their owners.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Bus Drivers Soon to Be Employed

AUG 30 1941

Mechanics Already on Job Here; Vacancies Being Filled

Several Negro mechanics have been given jobs by the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corporation since April 29, the date on which the companies' agreement with the Negro Bus Committee and the Transport Workers Union went into effect, a member of the Committee said yesterday. He said that since the 100 men on the union's extra list will soon be all reemployed, it will not be long before Negro bus drivers are on the job.

The agreement between the bus companies, on the one hand, and the Negro Bus Committee and the Transport Workers Union, on the other, stipulated that Negro bus drivers would begin to be hired as soon as 100 white drivers, temporarily laid off, had been reemployed.

AUG 30 1941

"This 100 is diminishing so fast that in a little while there will be vacancies for Negro drivers," the Negro Bus Committee member said. He said that the Negro mechanics hired since the agreement was signed have 'demonstrated their ability" to the complete satisfaction of the bus companies.

It was learned yesterday also that 10 recent Negro graduates of New York vocational schools are working as apprentices in the shops of the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. After a year's service, it is said, these youths will "automatically" become mechanics' helpers and, in time, mechanics. A parents-teachers association in Harlem is credited with having procured these jobs.

The Negro Bus Committee, which, with the Transport Workers Union, engineered the agreement with the bus companies, comprised representatives from the National Negro Congress, the Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment.

Before it had attained its objective of a written agreement to place Negro drivers on the buses of New York City, the Negro Bus Committee organized picket lines at all important bus stops in Harlem and called several mass meetings. It was reported at one of these meetings that the companies were losing $3,000 daily from the boycott.

New York Age

35g-1941

NEW YORK

New York, N. Y.

Maceo A. Thomas Completes 15 Years With Dobbins Coal Co.; First Negro Salesman

By WILLIAM E. CLARK

Those who think the drive for jobs in neighborhood business concerns is new are very much mistaken, for this campaign has been one of continuous agitation for the past two decades. As witness the case of Maceo A. Thomas, salesman extraordinary, who recently celebrated fifteen years with one firm.

When Mr. Thomas started selling coal in 1925 for the Dobbins Coal Company he was the first of his race to hold such a position. That he made good is evidenced by the progress the company has made since that time and the promotions he has received. Formerly serving only uptown Manhattan and the Bronx, the company combined with the Trinity Coal Company, a few years ago to become known as the Dobbins-Trinity Coal Co., Inc., and now serves four of New York's five boroughs—Manhattan, Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn.

JUL 19 1941

When Mr. Thomas started with the company very few Negroes were able to secure credit. Largely through his efforts credit is no longer based on race with this company. Also through his efforts a number of jobs for salesmen have been opened up to colored people in this field.

Recently the company sent out a notice to its customers announcing that Mr. Thomas, formerly located at 2306 Seventh avenue, has accepted the management of the Manhattan Sales office of the company located at 2215 Madison avenue at 138th street and the Harlem River.

In larger and more commodious quarters after two years operating his own sales office at 2306 Seventh avenue, Mr. Thomas was interviewed last week by The New York Age and told this reporter that he considered his biggest achievement during his long career with the Dobbins-Trinity Company not the fact that he had personally made good and had the full confidence of his superiors and fellow-workers, but that he had opened up jobs to colored salesmen. And at the present time he has openings for several qualified young men willing to work hard and make a career as a salesman.

MACEO A. THOMAS

"I think it's time that Negroes get into the 'heavy' industries," said Mr. Thomas. "I would like to see Negroes owning coal barges and operating coal companies, but we must first learn the business," he concluded.

Mr. Thomas in a tour of their Harlem River plant, pointed out how all the coal pockets are screened to assure clean fuel, nomical. Service and reliability which he said is the most economical are of paramount importance in selling coal, Mr. Thomas said and his company is fully prepared to solve your fuel problems.

He said his company could also serve the public in fuel oil, and its engineering department offered a free service to the public on fuel problems of all kinds.

A native of Maryland, where he still has a farm, Mr. Thomas is a graduate of Cornell University and has been quite actinve in the work of the New York Urban League, through whom he secured his appointment with the coal company, the Harlem Y.M.C.A. and the Catholic Inter-racial Movement.

Associated with him in his business is Miss Mildred Scott, formerly with the Dunbar National Bank, who is his secretary, and a staff of salesmen which includes several Harlemites.

Among Mr. Thomas's customers, in addition to many Negro homeowners are such well known institutions as the Broadway Savings Bank, the Hotel Theresa and many of the apartment buildings owned or managed by H. Alhouse, Inc., real estate company.

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

Hold Hearings Here On Employment And Wages Of Red Caps

Under direction of Thomas Holland, director of the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Deparment of Labor, hearings are now being held in the chambers of the City Council on wage and employment conditions among red caps as recently ordered by a Senate resolution.

The hearings opened at 10 a. m., Monday at City Hall with Mr. Holland assisted by L. L. Holstein in the examination of five red cap witnesses, two from Boston and 3 from Providence.

All of the witnesses testified that the 10 cents per bag charge had proven not only a hardship to red caps but had come to be regarded by the public as a nuisance. They also declared that railroad company agents had tried to intimidate them.

It is expected that the hearings will extend over most of the week with testimony covering employment of red caps in all of the railroad terminals in New York, Buffalo, Toledo, Rochester, Albany, Syracuse, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Willard S. Townsend, international president of the United America, is in the city from Chicago to participate in the hearings and on Monday cross-examined witnesses on the effects of 10 cents a bag charge which the railroad companies instituted.

The New York hearing is the third of a series extending over the country, previous hearings having been held in Chicago and St. Louis.

AUG 25 1941

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

Negro Engineer Gets Job As Technician With Metallic Corp.

Charles W. Bingham, of Chauncey street, Brooklyn, young Negro graduate in mechanical engineering of Pratt Institute, was placed Monday as a technician with the Sherron Metallic Corporation, of 1201 Flushing avenue, Brooklyn, manufacturers of sheet metal products, it was announced this week by the New York Urban League, according to Charles A. Collier, industrial secretary.

Mr. Bingham is the first Negro to be employed by this company, and will do layout work from plans and specifications, which requires a mechanical engineering background.

P. H. Sherron, president of the company, has given assurance that Mr. Bingham will have opportunity for advancement to higher engineering positions in accordance with his ability and experience. Mr. Bingham has had no previous engineering experience.

Mr. Sherron plans to immediately employ another Negro technician in a similar capacity, and is considering several applicants recommended by the New York Urban League. The employment of two Negro technicians is the first step in the company's plans to hire a proportionate share of skilled Negro workers in the plant, Mr. Sherron informed the New York Urban League.

Cabby Turns In A $9 Tip

AUG 27 1941

Lester Stokes, [illegible], a Negro cab driver of [illegible] Lenox Ave., walked into the E. [illegible]th St. station house yesterday and handed Lieut. John Piazza a $1[illegible]. It had been given him, he explained, for an 80-cent fare and a 10-cent tip and he had not noticed it was a [illegible] until the passenger had departed.

Two hours and a half later in walked Michael Calabrese, 30, of 327 E. 12th St., with a $5 bill and the same story. The bills are at the station awaiting their owners.

The Daily Worker

New York, N. Y.

Negro Bus Drivers Soon to Be Employed

AUG 30 1941

Mechanics Already on Job Here; Vacancies Being Filled

Several Negro mechanics have been given jobs by the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corporation since April 29, the date on which the companies' agreement with the Negro Bus Committee and the Transport Workers Union went into effect, a member of the Committee said yesterday. He said that since the 100 men on the union's extra list will soon be all reemployed, it will not be long before Negro bus drivers are on the job.

The agreement between the bus companies, on the one hand, and the Negro Bus Committee and the Transport Workers Union, on the other, stipulated that Negro bus drivers would begin to be hired as soon as 100 white drivers, temporarily laid off, had been reemployed.

AUG 30 1941

"This 100 is diminishing so fast that in a little while there will be vacancies for Negro drivers," the Negro Bus Committee member said. He said that the Negro mechanics hired since the agreement was signed have 'demonstrated their ability" to the complete satisfaction of the bus companies.

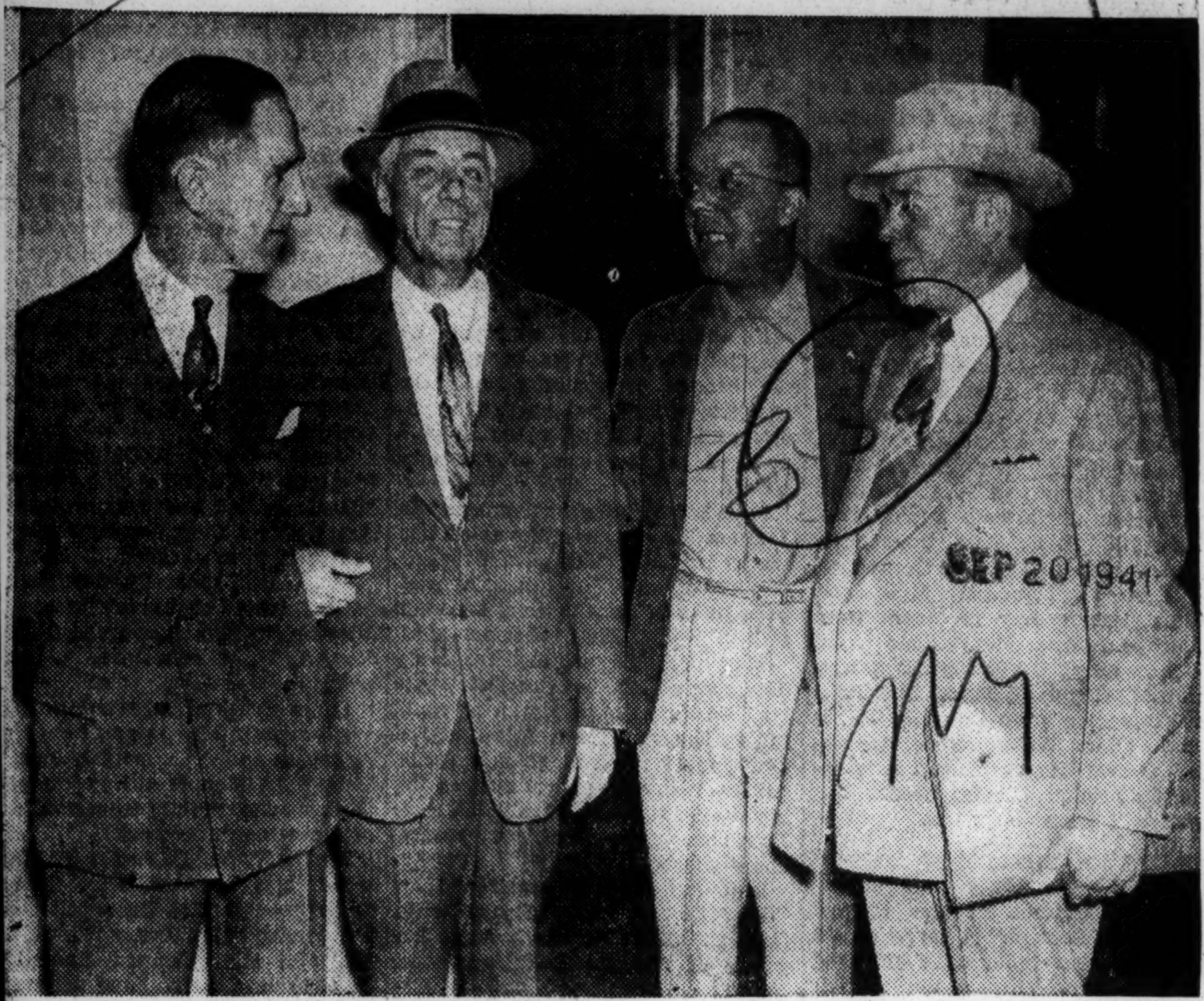
It was learned yesterday also that 10 recent Negro graduates of New York vocational schools are working as apprentices in the shops of the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. After a year's service, it is said, these youths will "automatically" become mechanics' helpers and, in time, mechanics. A parents-teachers association in Harlem is credited with having procured these jobs.

The Negro Bus Committee, which, with the Transport Workers Union, engineered the agreement with the bus companies, comprised representatives from the National Negro Congress, the Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment.

Before it had attained its objective of a written agreement to place Negro drivers on the buses of New York City, the Negro Bus Committee organized picket lines at all important bus stops in Harlem and called several mass meetings. It was reported at one of these meetings that the companies were losing $3,000 daily from the boycott.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

RUPPERT OFFICIALS GREET ACE SALESMAN



SEP 20 1941

359

George E. Ruppert, president of the Ruppert Brewing company of New York, greets Stewart Hedgepath, Chicago, Southside district manager and rated as an ace salesman in the Chicago territory. Mr. Hedgepath was congratulated for the fine work done for his company. He works out of the New York office. Mr. Ruppert is owner of the Yankee stadium in New York, Ruppert field in Newark and Ruppert field in Kansas City, Mo. Left to right, are Bart Ryan, branch manager of the Chicago area; George E. Ruppert, president of the company and vice president of the New York Yankees baseball club; Stewart Hedgepath and Harry M. Birsner, manager of production and brewmaster for the Ruppert Brewery.—Photo by Peter Basil.

SEP 20 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

SEP 27 1941

Explain Hitch Holding Negro Busmen Off Job

TWU and Bus Company Pact Is Cause Of Long Delay

359

From reliable sources the Star-News learned this week that the only hindrance preventing Negro drivers being placed on the Omnibus and Fifth Avenue Coach Company buses right away is an agreement between the company and the Transport Workers Union signed immediately after the closing of the World's Fair which stipulated that the ninety-one white bus drivers laid off should have priority rights as far as employment was concerned.

It was further ascertained that there are now forty of that number left, the others being given jobs or were unable to qualify and as a result have been dropped from the list.

Members of the Citizens' Committee which included the Rev. Adam C. Powell, Arnold Johnson, Dr. Cyril Olivierre, Roger Straughn, and Hope Stevens are known to have been approached by executives of the company and advised to contact the union with the hope of getting the organization to nullify that part of the contract, thereby releasing the company of the obligation in order to have Negro bus drivers on the vehicles immediately.

Efforts to contact Michael J. Quill, president of the Transport Workers Union, to determine whether the organization would be willing to cooperate with the company in making it possible to hire Negro drivers immediately failed due to the fact that he was busily engaged with the organization's convention which is now in session.

SEP 27 1941

Since the signing of the agreement between the Citizens' Committee and the company on April 29, thirty-five Negro mechanics have been hired at an average salary of $45 per week. Five young students, graduates from technical schools are also working as apprentices.

According to officials of the company every employe hired in the shops and garages since April 29, has been a Negro.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

N. Y. Youth Holds Air Job Here

SEP 27 1941

359

Holding one of the most important positions in the plant, Douglass Watson, 22, son of Municipal Judge James S. Watson, New York, has been employed in the designing division at Pitcairn Autogiro Company, Hatsboro, for the past two months.

Young Watson is a graduate of the Engineering School of New York University. It is understood that it was through school officials that contact for the position was secured for him. The Pitcairn Company manufactures autogiros.

The New York jurist's son is making his home in Philadelphia at the residence of Dr. Harry J. Greene, 1906 North 12th street.

35g-1941

NEW YORK

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Names Negro Manager Of 125th St. Chicken Store

FEB 15 1941

With the appointment of Isaiah Johnson, enterprising young Negro, as manager of the Brookhaven Farms Cut-up Chicken and Egg Store, and Misses Helen Harding and Alice Wallace as clerks, the Consolidated Housewives League, which pledged itself to patronize Negro-owned and Negro-managed businesses at its recent meeting at the Renaissance Casino, has scored one of its first successes.

Charles Aramson, proprietor of the store located at 204 West 125th Street, told The Amsterdam Star-News that he wholeheartedly supports the progressive program of the league and that he was proud to appoint a Negro manager who comes to him highly recommended and whom he knows will courteously serve customers of the store, which specializes in Grade A eggs and first grade, fresh killed chickens.

Well-known in social and dramatic circles in Harlem, Mr. Johnson is an active member of the Harlem branch of the Y.M.C.A. and of the Union Baptist Church. He comes to the Brookhaven Farms Corporation highly recommended by Carlyle Sherlock, former owner of the Pepper Pot Inn in Greenwich Village.

35g

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Veteran Porter

JUL 19 1941

Joseph W. Price, retired Pullman porter of Albany, who was "Knight of the Brush," on the 8:20 morning train between Albany and New York has served the traveling public of the nation for nearly a half century. His first great thrill came when he was selected to take charge of the private train in which Colonel Theodore Roosevelt made his trans-continental trip, following his return from Africa. One of his priceless possessions is an autographed photograph of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and another of his wife, Eleanor.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Colored Men Run Brooklyn Trolley Cars

35g

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—July 10 (ANP)—The Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit corporation without any fanfare, has hired 12 Negroes as motormen, running trolley cars in Brooklyn. Six are at work already and six more are in school. The men are being trained both as motormen and as drivers so they can take place of bus drivers when changes are made from street cars to busses, a shift which is imminent.

JUL 18 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Crawford Clothes Co. Hires 200 Negroes Survey Reveals

APR 12 1941

LONG ISLAND CITY—Contrary to public thought that there were no Negroes employed with Crawford Clothes Co., the Amsterdam Star News learned this week that there are more than 200 in the firm's employment filling not only porter jobs but many other positions as junior executives.

Unlike many concerns that refuse to employ Negroes, Crawford Clothes Co. has had them as employes for close to fifteen years. Arthur Brooks, manager of the reserve stock has been with the company fourteen years; Cecil Hughes. of the cutting department. nine-and-a-half years; Calvin Parron, assisting shipping clerk, seven-and-a-half years; Claude Watson distributing agent, five-and-a-half years; Lonnie Wheeler, assistant traffic manager, seven years and many others who are in the five year class.

They are all union members and enjoy the same rights and privileges as white workers.

According to one executive, 'We do not have the color question to deal with. We regard a man as a Crawford man, regardless of race, creed or color.

"The very fact that we have Negroes in our employment for that period of time, speaks for itself. We are interested in production," he said.

APR 12 1941

Regarding Negro salesman, an official of the company stated that just as soon as the expansion program enables the company to shift men from the Harlem store, Negroes will be employed.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Pickets Crusade For Jobs

MAY 1 - 1941

Aviation Concerns Are Targets Of NAACP Members

MAY 1 - 1941

NEW YORK CITY — (ANP) — Pickets walked at three of the four entrances to the R. C. A. building in Rockefeller center Saturday morning with signs proclaiming that both the Curtis-Wright corporation and the Sperry Gyroscope company, including the many subsidiaries of each, refuses to employ Negroes on any of the millions of dollars in defense contracts held by these companies. The fourth entrance could not be covered because that thoroughfare is privately owned.

MAY 1 - 1941

The move was part of the nation-wide campaign sponsored by the NAACP to picket major firms during government work in all the large cities and industrial centers. In New York, the drive was conducted for the branch by Eardlie John, chairman of the labor committee and an assistant corporation counsel for the city.

Plans originally called for the picketing of the Brewsters Aeronautics corporation, however, in the interest of expediency this plan was altered when Mr. John recieved a letter early Saturday morning in which the company denied any such discrimination in its labor policy. The explanation that it just had not been employing anyone recently was given. in fact, the claim was made that some men are being laid off temporarily.

MAY 1 - 1941

Mr. John made clear his intention not to let the matter rest here but rather to investigate and if the contention of the company it true, the branch then will insist that the Brewster company at least permit Negroes to enter their school for apprentices as an indication of good faith or sincerity. Edward J. Walsh, personnel director, signed the letter.

Efforts during the picketing to conduct a spokesman for the other companies was to no avail.

The general reaction among passersby around the entrances picketed was said to be one of curiosity as well as interest. In many instances pickets were approached and questioned about the purposes and progress of the drive. Significant too was the group of Chinese "dignitaries' who were apparently being escorted about the city. Upon arriving at the 50th street entrance to the building and finding the li of Negroes bearing signs, they sisted upon stopping to observe the pickets despite the attempts of their guides to hurry them inside the buiding.

MAY 1 - 1941

MAY 1 - 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Report Employment Of 10 More Negroes By Omnibus Company

35g

The Coordinating Committee for Employment through its chairman, Dr. A. Clayton Powell. Jr., announced the employment of ten more Negroes in the Omnibus Corporation of New York, maintenance division.

JUL 19 1941

These [illegible] who were picked from the Vocational High Schools of Brooklyn and Harlem have been placed in various jobs in the company at basic salaries of not less than $25 per week.

Two of them were placed in the stock room, marking the second time Negroes were ever employed in that division where they have opportunities for raises up to $45 per week.

There are now over 50 Negro employees in the Omnibus Corporation of New York City, making an average salary of $35 per week.

Dr. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., said when interviewed. "the employment of ten more Negroes in the Omnibus Corporation of New York City continues to bear witness to the success of the work of the Negro people of Harlem in the boycott and picketing of the Omnibus Corporation and shows also the good faith the company's executives are manifesting toward the Negro consumer."

JUL 19 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Five Hundred New Jobs

MAY 3 1941

After a few weeks of picketing, New Yorkers have signed an agreement with the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Corporation whereby they will get seventy maintenance men and one hundred bus drivers.

MAY 3 1941

Eventually, the contract recites, 510 of the company's 3,000 employees are to be colored.

Seems as though those of us who have complained about jobs in public utilities and even in defense industries need to do something else. The picketing business deserves a trial.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

A Lesson The Negro Bus Fight Taught

MAY 5 - 1941

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The victory of the people of Harlem led by the Negro Bus strike Committee should teach the Jewish workers in this city a big lesson.

For years the New York Telephone Company has discriminated against the Jewish people despite the fact that millions of us live in this city and tens of thousands subscribe to telephone service.

With the Harlem bus victory as an example, is it not possible to organize a campaign to defeat this stronghold of discrimination? Certainly the thousands of Jewish telephone subscribers in the directories of the city could be organized into an effective force for this one job in defense of democracy.

MAY 5 1941

Unity between Negro and Jews in this fight would be natural because they are both victims of discrimination by the giant corporation. I think that all progressive and fraternal youth groups should take the initial steps in this action.

P. G.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

New York Bus Companies Employ Negroes; Victory Parade Postponed

MAY 10 1941

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—Seven mechanics have already been employed by the two major operating bus companies in their shops, and within one week 10 men are expected to begin their training as chauffeurs on the companies' lines, it was announced recently.

These developments follow close on the heels of the contract signed a week ago culminating four weeks of boycott conducted by Harlemites against the New York City Omnibus Corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach Company demanding the employment of of Negroes in all operating categories.

MAY 10 1941

Simultaneously, it was announced that the victory parade which had been planned for Saturday has been called off entirely for the present.

The association has decided to wait until a decision has been made on the next objective of the groups which actively prosecuted the bus fight and to hold a victory meeting and at the same time sound the opening shot of the new struggle.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

I WRITE AS I SEE

By ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET

MAY 8 - 1941

A Little Money Goes A Long Way

The successful Harlem bus strike cost Negroes six hundred dollars. In return for that negligible sum five hundred Negroes soon will be employed by the New York bus companies,—in other words probably more than $1,000 000 a year, plus the break down of Jim Crow, for a paltry $600.

FAUSET

Most Philadelphians are not aware of it, but the dogged fight which the Emergency Committee for the Defense of Public Housing is waging, under the legal guidance of Theodore O. Spaulding, head of defense counsel, has resulted in obtaining a mixed tenant situation in the new 30th and Tasker Streets Housing Project.

MAY 8 - 1941

When the committee began its work, the chairman of the Housing Authority was emphatic that practically all the tenants of Tasker Street would be white. It was to be a "white" project. Already now, more than 30 Negro families have been certified for the area, and it is reasonable to believe that when the project is completed the number of Negro families will reach into the hundreds.

PAYING FOR WHAT WE NEED

The fight's the thing.

But fighting costs money. The ironic fact is that often it costs so little money. A few hundred dollars here in a bus strike, a hundred or so in an assault on 5 and 10 cent stores which refuse to hire Negroes, perhaps $250 to help the NNC tackle a city administration which condones wholesale arrests of Negroes, a hundred dollars or so to the Tenant Leagues in order to fight back at the landlords who plan to use the defense situation to raise rents and evict impoverished Negro tenants,—and what is the result? Millions of dollars saved for Negroes, millions more put into their pockets through additional jobs and wage increases, and progress in the struggle for civil liberty.

MAY 8 - 1941

Alas, usually there is no money to begin the struggle! In the fight of the Emergency Housing Committee, a number of us are putting up $25 or more, hoping to get it back in some way from the people for whom the fight is being waged. This should not be. It is preposterous that a few public minded citizens should always be having to go down into their own pockets in order to finance struggles for the 300,000 Negroes in the city, who if they contributed but one-fiftieth of the money they expend in taprooms and dance halls would more than cover all these urgent expenses.

A PROPOSAL

This is a real condition which confronts us. Something must be done, and it must be done very soon. I want to make this very serious and concrete proposal now:

Since Negroes will spend money for pleasure, why not let a number of us leaders organize a Defense Finance Committee for the purpose of raising annually a sizeable amount for the public defense, say at least five to ten thousand dollars a year, and do this through a huge public entertainment or dance held at Convention Hall to which the great Negro public would be invited, thereby participating in the fun and also in the public defense?

MAY 8 - 1941

The details of managing the fund, bonding the holders, disbursing the money, etc., can be arranged. We need such a fund. Then when emergencies arise, the issues will not die aborning because there is no money to get things going. Often the campaign can go on its own momentum once it is given a real start.

Shall we attempt to get such an idea under way, say next fall? What do you, readers and leaders, think of my proposal?

(The ideas expressed in the above column do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of this newspaper.—Editor's Note.)

35g-1941 NEW YORK

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

10 Negro Workers Begin Training as Bus Drivers; Olympic Champion, 4 College Graduates, in Group

MAY 21 1941

By Eugene Gordon

Ten young Negro men began yesterday to train in the practice and details of operating buses on New York City's highways.

They are the first of a group of 100 Negro drivers which the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corp., in a written agreement on April 19, promised to hire before other drivers are employed.

In that agreement, which was made between the two bus companies, on the one hand, and the Transport Workers Union and the United Negro Bus Association, on the other, following several weeks of militant picketing of Harlem bus stops by the United Negro Bus Strike Committee and its supporters, the companies promised that, atfer this minimum number had been employed, 50 per cent of all additional workers emloyed, in the ratio of one Negro for one white man, shall be Negroes, until the total number of Negro workers employed by bus companies shall equal 17 per cent of all workers in their employ.

The agreement signed April 19, provided also for hiring a minimum of 70 Negro workers as maintenance men "in all categories" before other workers are employed in this division. Since the signing of the agreement 37 Negro maintenance men have been taken on by the companies.

The men who reported at 10 A.M. yesterday in the offices of Edmund C. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the bus companies, 650 W. 132th St., were selected, Mr. Collins said, on the basis of their driving records and their characters. One of the men, Leon J. Deloach, 25 and married, of 672 St. Nicholas Ave., had not reported by noon. Percy Bryant, another applicant, was reported to have been called to Detroit the night before to head the testing ground at the Ford plant at a salary of $125 weekly.

Preliminary to actual training, the men are given a physical examination. Training consists in teaching the details of operating a bus as dstinguished from operating any other kind of motor car. Training grounds are in the vicinity of the Yankee Stadium. Having completed the first stages of their training, the men will accompany regular drivers on their routes, observing how change is made, traffic watched, doors closed, etc. while the bus is in operation. When the whole course has been completed the men will be put on a reserved list to await vacancies.

NINE INTERVIEWED

The following nine men were interviewed in the companies' 132nd St. office:

Leon Black, 35 and married; 217 W. 110th St.; graduate Newport High School, Ark.; 20 years driving experience. (2) Vincent Cunningham, 26 and single; 48 St. Nicholas Pl.; graduate De Witt Clinton High School; six years driving experience. (3) Richard Farrell, 35 and married; 128 W. 138th St.; graduate Sumner High School, Kansas City, Mo. (4) Percy Ferguson, 33 and married, 555 Edgecombe Ave.; A. B. and L1.B., Howard University, Washington, D. C.; 17 years a driver. (5) Edward Gordon, 31 and married; 2260 Bathgate Ave., Bronx; degrees of B. S. and M. A., University of Iowa; 18 years driving experience. (6) Elmer Haney, 37 and married; 461 W. 148th St.; B. S., Prairie View State College, Prairie View, Texas, and working toward Master's degree. (7) Hiawatha Lynn, 29 and single; 128 W. 138th St. (8) Edgar Mitchell, 31 and married; 2440 Seventh Ave.; attended Howard University; 12 years driving experience. (9) Charles E. Smith, 31 and married; 272 W. 129th St.; A. B., Clark University, Atlanta; 16 years driving experience.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION

There was openly expressed amazement by the office staff of the bus companies at some of the facts revealed in the interviews. It was learned, for instance, that Edward Gordon was the same renowned Eddie Gordon who went to Amsterdam, Holland, with the Olympic Team in 1928, competing with the world's best athletes in the broad jump; the same Eddie Gordon who, in the Olympics at Los Angeles in 1932, won the broad jump against the world's best, his mark being 25.5¾ feet.

Gordon is still one of the country's best all-round athletes, most of his time being spent at present in coaching young athletes. He is well known and immensely popular among followers of labor sports.

Another applicant whose record aroused interest was Elmer Haney. In addition to his B. S. degree and his 23 points leading to the master's degree in administration and supervision of secondary schools, he has worked at selling insurance, as a substitute in the post office, as an assistant mechanic on a bus running between New York and Washington, D. C., and has driven a taxi in New York.

Mr. Haney also spent some time among the ranks of the unemployed, despite all his qualifications.

These men without exception seemed to feel that it was fine that the Negro people at last was to get representation in a field of employment which previously had been closed to them. Nevertheless, they expressed the view that it was nothing to get excited about, some of them asserting bluntly that if this were the great democracy it is supposed to be they would be doing the work for which they have been trained.

Officials of the bus companies declared that they were wholly satisfied with the quality of the Negro applicants.

The first steps taken yesterday morning toward training Negro bus drivers ends the first chapter of a long and militant fight by the United Negro Bus Strike Committee and its supporters, assisted and encouraged by the Transport Workers Union. The Committee was made up of the National Negro Congress, whose spokesman was Hope Stevens, President of the Manhattan Council; the Harlem Labor Union, represented by Roger Straughn, and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment, represented by Arnold P. Johnson, Dr. Cecil C. Olliviere, and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

9 Negroes Begin Bus Co. Training

By J. ROBERT SMITH MAY 24 1941

The first step towards employing Negroes as drivers on buses owned and operated by the New York Omnibus Corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach Company was taken, Tuesday, when nine men responded to an invitation to call at their office. 603 West 132 St. for physical examination, and training

Of the 266 who applied for drivers positions, the following men were selected: Charles E. Smith, 31, 272 W. 129 St., married, a graduate of Clark University, Atlanta, Ga. has been driving for 16 years;

Richard Farrell, 35, 128 W 138 St., married, graduate of Summer High School, Kansas City, Mo., 10 years driving experience; Edgar Mitchell, 31, 2440 7th Avenue, married, graduate of Howard University, 12 years experience;

Broad Jump Champion.

Edward Gordon, 31, 2260 Bathgate Ave., married, graduate of the University of Iowa and 1932 Olympic broad jump champion with 18 years driving experience; Hia-attorney and secretary-treasurer for the bus companies, the men who were selected through the YMCA, State Employment Office, New York Urban League and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee will begin training this week as soon as they have passed the physical examination.

They will then be expected to drive the buses with a regularly employed company instructor on the try-out grounds and after becoming acquainted with the mechanism of the vehicle they will be put on the Fifth and Eighth Ave. routes accompanied with drivers on routine schedule.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Still Waiting for Bus Jobs

JUL 19 1941

Dear Sir: The so-called agreement whereby Harlem workers would have been employed on the buses has been signed, for some time, but so far I have not seen any of the boys at the wheel yet. This fact calls to my mind a statement made by the Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., one of the militant leaders of the jobs-on-the-buses fight, that we should not ride the buses until we "see black boys rolling the buses."

What are we to do now? Wait till "thy kingdom come" or begin the agitation anew? We want jobs, and if we can't force the people with whom we spend our nickels and dimes to hire us, then, how, in the name of Moses are we to force the people who boss the rearmament program to give us jobs?

It seems to me that the Negro is in for a good run-around and our leaders can't see it.

DUMB BELL.

Harlem.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

14 Negroes Hired By Bell Aircraft

MAY 23 1941

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—From the office of OPM comes the announcement that the Bell Aircraft factory of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has engaged 14 Negroes the first to be hired, in the fabricating division of their plant and has opened its training school for Negroes.

The Curtis Wright Aeroplane company of Buffalo also opened its training school to Negroes with seven admitted to a specialized course and four workers employed in the factory. Already the company reports it has in its employ one Negro engineer and [illegible] Saturday employed another colored engineer.

The Cheney Silk company, manufacturers of parachutes at Hartford, Conn., has employed a number of colored girls in its factory and plans further use of additional colored help.

In the Kansas City area, five Negro bricklayers are employed on the construction of the Remington-Arms Amunition plant at Lake City, 18 miles east of Kansas City. Two hundred or more Negroes are employed as unskilled laborers on this project.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

19 Year Old Youth Appointed Federal Aircraft Mechanic

JUN 28 1941

An interest in aviation, which he developed with three years of study at the School of Aviation Trades, 220 East 63rd street, from which he was graduated on Tuesday, June 24, has led to the acceptance [illegible] John Evans, 19, of 862 Home street, the Bronx, as a Junior Aircraft Mechanic by the War Department.

On Tuesday evening, Evans boarded a plane to report to duty at the Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio, on Wednesday, as a mechanic at $1680 per year.

A native of Pulaski, Va., young Evans was brought here by his parents at an early age and after graduation from the Edward W. Stitt Junior High School, enrolled at the School of Aviation Trades because of his interest in aviation. At the school he studied all branches of aviation and because of his studies was automatically placed on the U.S. Civil Service list for Junior Aircraft Mechanic.

On June 9 he was advised by the War Department to report to the [illegible] at Patterson Field after first passing a physical examination here before a Federal Medical Officer.

JUN 28 1941

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

BROOKLYN PUTS NEGRO MOTORMEN TO WORK

JUL 10 1941

Brooklyn, N. Y., (ANP)—The Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit corporation, without any fanfare, has hired 12 Negroes as motormen, running trolley cars in Brooklyn. Six are at work already and six more are in school. The men are being trained both as motormen and as drivers so they can take place of bus drivers when changes are made from street cars to busses, a shift which is imminent.

The Negroes now employed are on duty as extras, simply filling in on runs when regular men fail to report. A company official told The Age that this is temporary and that these Negroes will be permanently employed as vacancies occur. There is nothing on company records to indicate whether employees are Negroes or whites, it was stated, and the reaction of present motormen to the placing of Negro fellow-workers among them has not caused the slightest disruption or complaint.

Another indication of broadening of company policy was seen in the fact that the Negro motormen have not been shunted into districts which are known as Negro areas. The six men now employed are assigned indiscriminately throughout the borough on the Fulton, Reid and Flatbush trolley lines.

JUL 10 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

125th St. Store Hires Negroes

JUL 12 1941

Negro employes of Smilen Brothers, Inc., 272 West 125th Street. These men are employed in their 125th Street store, in their warehouses and on their trucks. Front row, left to right, Fred Cunningham, Carl Milliken, Joe [illegible], Daniel Swindell, Ortho Johnson, Raymond Griffith, Clarence Belcher and Morris Rose. Second row, left to right, Charles Edelen, Walter Storey, E. T. Butler, Neil Lunford and William Rice.

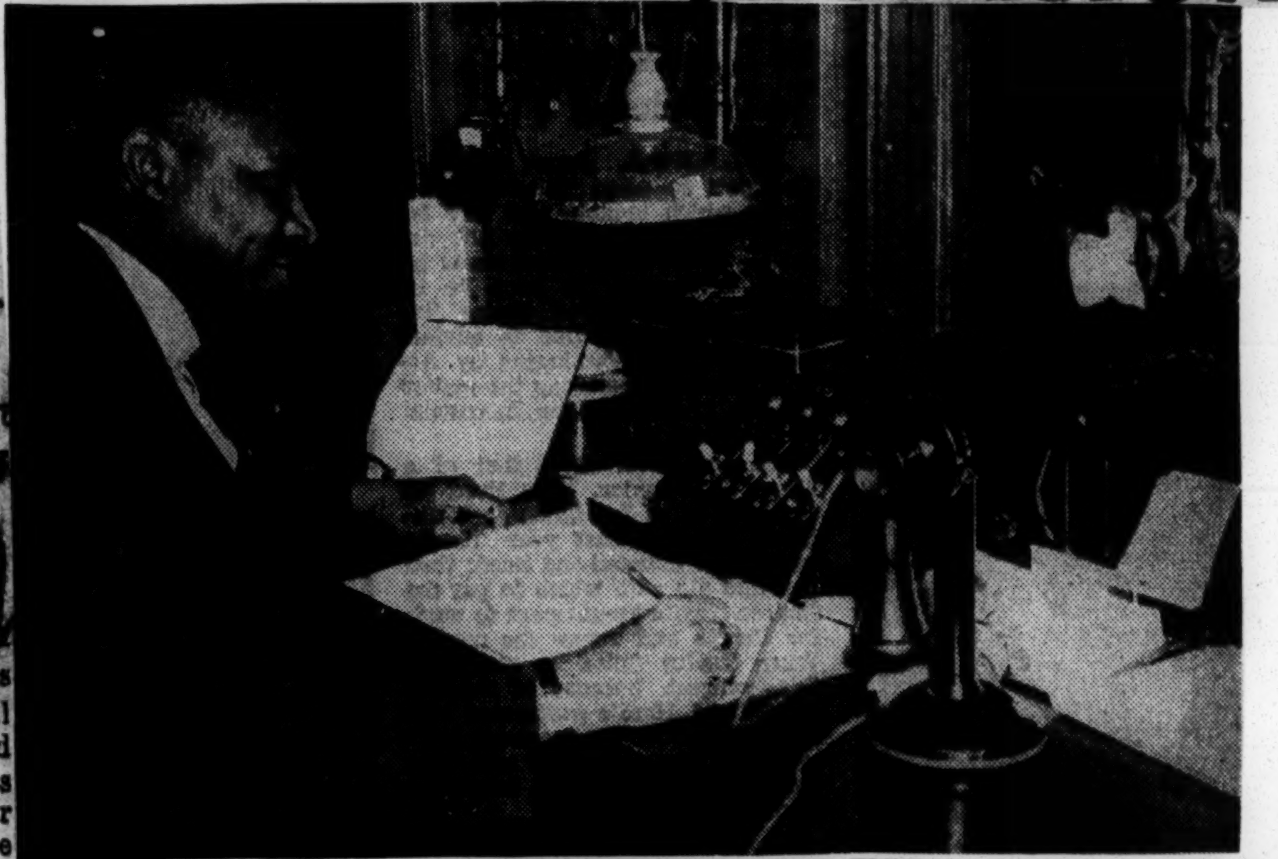
JUL 12 1941

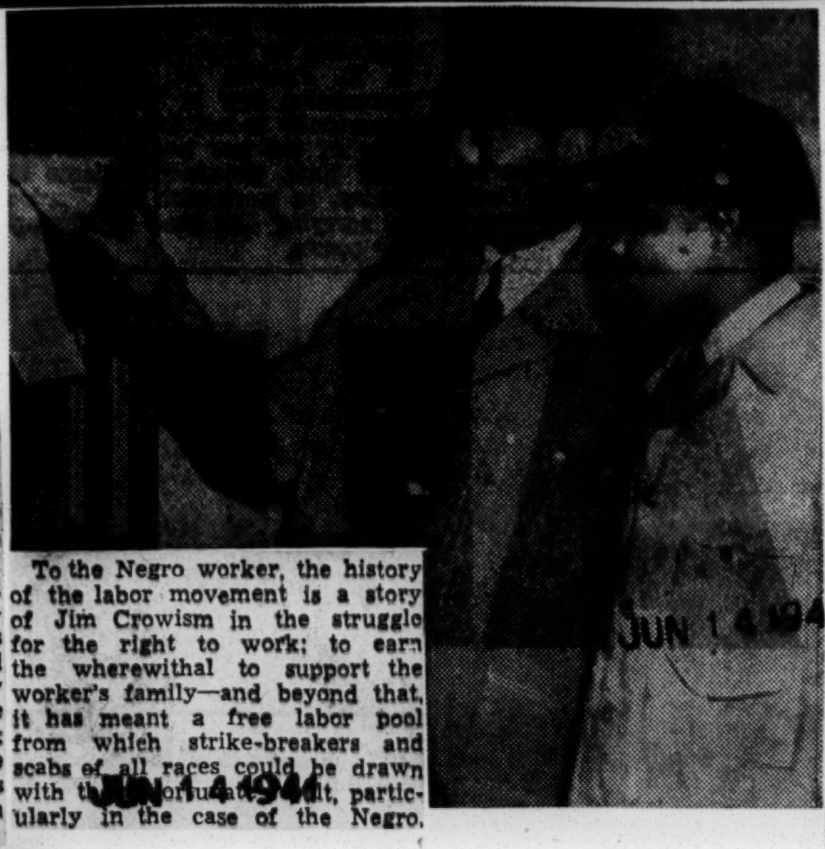
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Negro and Transportation

Bitter Battle Looms

Colored Employees of Transportation Lines Important in Fight





What the Independent City-Owned Subway System has meant to the intelligent and ambitious Negro. Left to right are shown motormen Theodore R. Sewell and James D. Anthony. Seated at the dispatcher's desk (in the picture above) is Frank J. Smalls, assistant dispatcher at the West 168th Street Station. Mr. Smalls joined the system in 1932 as a station agent (railway clerk). He was graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1938 with the bachelor of science degree and from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1939 with the master's degree.

Behind the fight between the Transport Workers Union led by International President Michael Quill and the City of New York and its mayor, F. H. LaGuardia, for a closed union shop in the operation of the city's subway system, stands the ominous figure of the black American. He stands there a man of bronze, intelligent, alert, strong, loyal, willing to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to his race and country those things that lawfully and morally may belong to one's race and country.

It is not only the right of union members to bargain collectively with the city that interests the Negro transit worker and that larger group that is represented by the Negro community; it is the right of the Negro to be employed as a skilled workman on an equal basis with all other American citizens. Had the Transport Workers Union and its officials possessed the vision and foresight necessary to deal effectively with the Negro element in the New York City population, it is conceivable that the situation or the problems to be faced now would have been very different.

To the Negro worker, the history of the labor movement is a story of Jim Crowism in the struggle for the right to work; to earn the wherewithal to support the worker's family—and beyond that, it has meant a free labor pool from which strike-breakers and scabs of all races could be drawn with the unfortunate result, particularly in the case of the Negro, that he be dubbed an outcast of labor—a scab—before he had an opportunity to be man and a leader and follower in the ranks of labor.

As should have been expected by even a school boy, the average Negro—and he forms the bulk of the Negro population—is suspicious of labor leaders and workers, even when the doors of union locals are free and open to him. In the New York transit situation, before the operation of the Independent City-Operated Subway System, the Negro was excluded from white collar jobs on the Interborough Rapid Transit System and the Brooklyn and Manhattan Transit System. He was regarded and treated as fit for occupying a position no higher than that of a porter, who, if, in the judgment of the white station agent, is honest enough or capable, may be allowed to act as a lunch-time relief worker in the change booth.

New York City heard a lot about this matter during the investigation and hearings conducted by the New York State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population in 1932, when officials of the privately owned and operated transit systems testified that it was not considered wise to use Negroes as platform men, because the white passengers would object to colored in such jobs. This was the testimony and opinion placed upon the record although the Independent Subway was in operation with Negroes occupying positions from porters to conductors, motormen, despatchers and station agents.

More than 600 Negroes now hold positions in all grades in the City-Owned Subway, but these jobs were not had through the Transport Workers Union and these employees of the city will have nothing to do with the Mr. Quill and his union. They look upon the Quill outfit as anti-Negro; anti-government, and communistic. They say they are under no obligation to any labor union; that as civil service employees their rights and interests are adequately protected by the law of the state and the municipality. Their social and fraternal privileges and benefits are provided by their own associations and clubs, into which they pay their dues in addition to any pension benefits that may come to them later out of their own contributions.

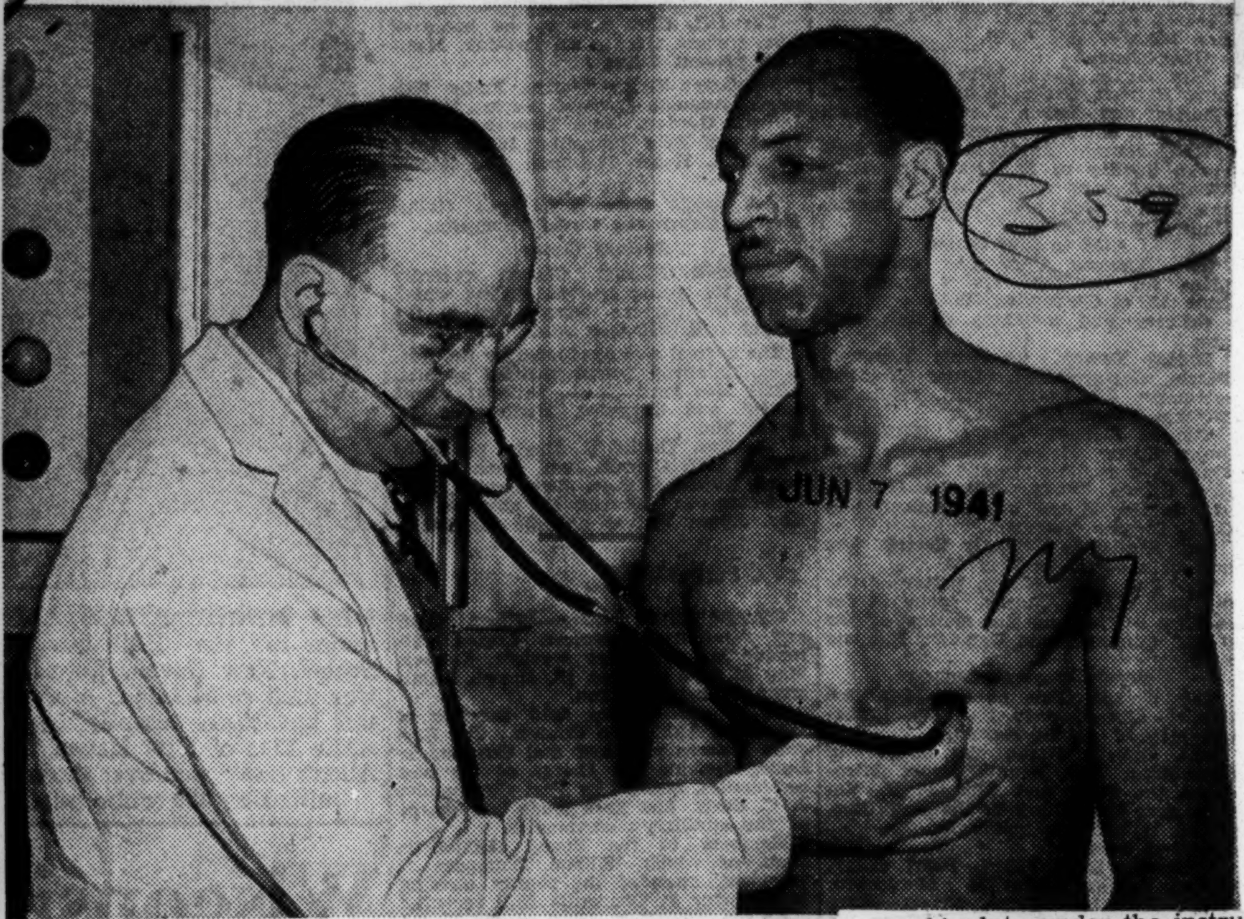
Of course, while the outcome of the fight between the T. W. U. and the city will in some way affect the Independent Subway employees, particularly if the unexpected should happen, the employees of this branch of the subway system are not now involved in the dispute. Their role, the union desires, is to be sympathetic strikers. But, it is said among Independent workers and T. W. U. officials that the union hasn't a ghost of a chance of getting them out on strike, if the workers of the old I. R. T. and B. M. T. carry out their leaders promise of a dreadful tie-up of the city's transportation facilities during the month of June.

The Independent Subway System has been a successful laboratory for the Negro in transit employment in New York City. It has raised him to new and higher levels of achievement in a democratic city. He says he is grateful to Father Knickerbocker and stands faithfully behind him if, as and when the test of loyalty to race and city comes.

JUN 14 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Ex-Olympic Champ First ~~Bus Driver~~



359

JUN 7 1941

NY

Eddie Gordon (right), 1932 Olympic broad jump champion, getting a physical examination for a job as bus driver with the New York Omnibus Corporation. Colored drivers were employed for the first time after racial groups picketed and boycotted the transportation corporation, and Gordon is one of the first nine colored drivers selected for the jobs.

JUN 7 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Negro Motormen On Brooklyn Trolleys

359

NY

Six Negro motormen were operating trolley cars owned by the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Corporation through Brooklyn streets, beginning the latter part of last week, the Star-News learned, and the forward step is bound to have a far-reaching effect in making large cities follow suit.

The men are Averill Gill, who is assigned to the Cross depot; George Been, [illegible] depot; Lawrence Williamson, 58th St. depot; [illegible] Wilkins, 9th Avenue depot; George Lougheed, Fre[illegible]pond depot, and John Powell, [illegible]th Avenue depot. They are all from New York City.

JUL 5 1941

Richard Studinfin, of New York City, who failed the practical test was unassigned. The men were picked from the Civil Service list of Auto Engineering.

Another six are attending school, training to take over as motormen. They are to spend a three-day period in school then undergo a week's duty under the instruction of veteran motormen.

The appointment of Negroes on trolleys in Brooklyn has surpassed many large cities in that respect. Cleveland and Detroit are the only two cities that Negroes are known to be in motormen jobs.

New York City led the way several years ago when the Independent Subway System hired Negroes in all capacities. Many efforts to get the Pennsylvania Rapid Transit system in Philadelphia to place Negroes in those positions have failed. Such cities as Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Baltimore, Washington and others have been unsuccessful in getting Negro motormen.

JUL 5 1941

From all reports, the six motormen on the Brooklyn trolleys are performing their jobs ably.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

6 NEGRO MOTORMEN ON BROOKLYN STREET CARS

BMT To Transfer Men To Buses When Trolleys Are Discontinued

359

NY

Brooklynites were rubbing their eyes these days as they caught fleeting glimpses of copper-colored motormen piloting trolley cars owned and operated by the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Corporatios, through borough streets.

JUL 5 1941

The whole city will react with amazement to learn what was exclusively revealed to The New York Age last week; to wit:

1. Since June 1, 1941, six Negroes have been placed on duty. Six more, as The Age went to press, were attending school, training to take over as motormen. The latter were to spend a three-day period in school and then to undergo a week's duty under the instruction of veteran motormen, after which they will be free to go out "on their own."

2. It is the avowed intention of the BMT to transfer Negro motormen to bus lines when the latter replace trolley tracks, as is shortly expected.

3. More Negroes, allegedly, will be hired on trolley cars and for bus operation in the borough.

The catch?

The Negroes now employed are on duty as extras, simply filling in on runs when regular men fail to report. A company offiical told The Age that this is temporary and that these Negroes will be permanently employed as vacancies occur. There is nothing on company records to indicate whether employees are Negroes or whites, it was stated, and the reaction of present motormen to the placing of Negro fellow-workers among them has not caused the slightest disruption or complaint.

Another indication of broadening of company policy was seen in the fact that the Negro motormen have not been shunted into districts which are known as Negro [illegible]. The six men now employed are assigned indiscriminately throughout the borough on the Fulton, Reid and Flatbush trolley lines.

JUL 5 1941

One of the new BMT employees, Richard Studfin of 204 West 122nd street, interviewed by The Age on Sunday had the following cryptic comment to make:

"I am very well satisfied with job young fellow, very well satisfied."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Negro Motorman

359

NY

Richard Studifin, of Harlem, one of six Negroes who have been placed on duty as a motorman by the B.M.T. to operate Brooklyn trolley cars. Photo was taken outside the [illegible] New York trolley depot as the new motorman reported for work on the Sumner-Sackett line.

JUL 5 1941

35g-1941

NEW YORK

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

New York Gets First Negro Bus Drivers

NYC

MAY 26 1941

NEW YORK CITY—E. C. Collins (extreme left) giving instructions to nine men picked to be the first colored bus drivers in New York City. Collins is secretary and treasurer of the New York City Omnibus Corporation, which hired them. L. to r., seated: Leon Black, Percy Ferguson, Vincent Cunningham, and Charles E. Smith. Standing: Richard Farrell, Edgar Mitchell, Edward Gordon, Hiawatha Lynn, and Elmer Haney. (Acme)

MAY 26 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Give Negroes Those Jobs!

335

The United States army, under order from President Roosevelt moved in and took over at the giant North American Aviation Corp. plant in Inglewood, California last week after strikers had defied their own union leaders, Secretary of Labor Perkins and the National Defense Mediation Board and ref"sed to go back to work.

JUN 2 1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Something Better Than Defense Jobs

359

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

THE national defense program has greatly increased the bargaining power of labor, both organized and unorganized. Long before the Ford Company gave the CIO everything it could have possibly asked for including a closed shop and an agreement, to hand over to CIO some $120,000 per month in dues, the CIO and the AFL were making stupendous gains up and down the whole labor front.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly survey of labor turn-over covering 3,100,000 workers in 7,300 manufacturing plants all over the United States, workers are being hired almost as fast as they were immediately preceding NRA. Voluntary separations, that is, workers leaving one job to find a better one, were higher than at any other time on record.

JUL 12 1941

The white worker today, like the Negro worker, is restless and it will become increasingly hard to find one who will be satisfied with less than 62½ cents per hour. Because of the great demand for white labor, employers who don't have defense contracts to absorb their increasing labor costs will find so many of their preferred white workers leaving them that they will be glad to listen to reason about employing Negroes.

A CHANCE FOR THE RACE WORKER

To the Negro worker, whose qualifications are not being considered for employment in many defense occupations, this whole labor picture provides a chance to solidify himself in the vast areas of American industry. I don't mean by fighting for a few jobs here and there in such defense industries as machine shops, aircraft, shipbuilding and others. We have far more to gain by centering our fire upon the so-called "feeder" industries—rolling mills, foundries, smelting and refining factories, iron and steel mills, and even laundries, cleaning and dyeing establishments, and garment shops, not to mention the service trades.

I recommend this course, not that I think Negroes should not seek employment in the vital defense industries, but because gains won in the latter industries can be more easily protected from the displacement of white workers when recession sets in and also our present occupational training will make it easy for us to make greater inroads into the second group of industries.

BUILD STRONG UNIONS

But to protect his gains in these industries the Negro worker will have to break away from his strike-breaking union-baiting leaders and build strong AFL or CIO unions to protect the seniority which he will acquire by taking jobs which white workers would refuse. These very same unions could be used, as they are now being used in hundreds of cases, to raise wages, shorten hours and to improve working conditions.

However, their main value will lie in the extent the Negro worker can use them to escape the same experiences which he had at the close of the world's war, during the depression, and during NRA. Only through a rigid seniority system can the Negro worker protect himself from being the first fired and the last hired.

JUL 12 1941

35g-1941 NEW YORK

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

ew York Gets First Negro Bus Drivers

NEW YORK CITY—E. C. Collins (extreme left) giving instructions to nine men picked to be the first colored bus drivers in New York City. Collins is secretary and treasurer of the New York City Omnibus Corporation, which hired them. L. to r., seated: Leon Black, Percy Ferguson, Vincent Cunningham, and Charles E. Smith. Standing: Richard Farrell, Edgar Mitchell, Edward Gordon, Hiawatha Lynn, and Elmer Haney. (Acme)

MAY 26 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Give Negroes Those Jobs!

359

The United States army, under order from President Roosevelt moved in and took over at the giant North American Aviation Corp. plant in Inglewood, California, last week after strikers had defied their own union leaders, Secretary of Labor Perkins and the National Defense Mediation Board and refused to go back to work.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Something Better Than Defense Jobs

359

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

THE national defense program has greatly increased the bargaining power of labor, both organized and unorganized. Long before the Ford Company gave the CIO everything it could have possibly asked for including a closed shop and an agreement, to hand over to CIO some $120,000 per month in dues, the CIO and the AFL were making stupendous gains up and down the whole labor front.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly survey of labor turn-over covering 3,100,000 workers in 7,300 manufacturing plants all over the United States, workers are being hired almost as fast as they were immediately preceding NRA. Voluntary separations, that is, workers leaving one job to find a better one, were higher than at any other time on record.

The white worker today, like the Negro worker, is restless and it will become increasingly hard to find one who will be satisfied with less than 62½ cents per hour. Because of the great demand for white labor, employers who don't have defense contracts to absorb their increasing labor costs will find so many of their preferred white workers leaving them that they will be glad to listen to reason about employing Negroes.

A CHANCE FOR THE RACE WORKER

To the Negro worker, whose qualifications are not being considered for employment in many defense occupations, this whole labor picture provides a chance to solidify himself in the vast areas of American industry. I don't mean by fighting for a few jobs here and there in such defense industries as machine shops, aircraft, shipbuilding and others. We have far more to gain by centering our fire upon the so-called "feeder" industries—rolling mills, foundries, smelting and refining factories, iron and steel mills, and even laundries, cleaning and dyeing establishments, and garment shops, not to mention the service trades.

I recommend this course, not that I think Negroes should not seek employment in the vital defense industries, but because gains won in the latter industries can be more easily protected from the displacement of white workers when recession sets in and also our present occupational training will make it easy for us to make greater inroads into the second group of industries.

BUILD STRONG UNIONS

But to protect his gains in these industries the Negro worker will have to break away from his strike-breaking union-baiting leaders and build strong AFL or CIO unions to protect the seniority which he will acquire by taking jobs which white workers would refuse. These very same unions could be used, as they are now being used in hundreds of cases, to raise wages, shorten hours and to improve working conditions.

However, their main value will lie in the extent the Negro worker can use them to escape the same experiences which he had at the close of the world's war, during the depression, and during NRA. Only through a rigid seniority system can the Negro worker protect himself from being the first fired and the last hired.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Speed-up in Washington

Victims of Speed-up: Miss Edith Belcher (left) 22-year-old worker in the card punching division of the Census Bureau. Employed by the Census Bureau since September, 1940, Miss Belcher had to quit work last April for medical treatment. Advised to do lighter work, she was told such tasks would be given her when available. Miss Virginia Allen (above) 28. tells her story to Dr. Alpheus Hunton, chairman of the labor committee of the National Negro Congress.

Welcomed by White Workers Says Negroes

MAY 28 1941

Men and Women Hired in Job Fight Blast Falsehoods

It is usually the boss, and neither the union nor the individual worker, who is guilty of barring Negroes from jobs in industry, Mrs. Dorothy K Funn, of the Brooklyn Council, National Negro Congress, declared Saturday night at an assemblage of Negro workers for whom the Congress had found jobs in industry.

Her statement was made in refutation of the excuse, often given by employers, that whites will not work with Negroes or that the union is to blame for the absence of Negroes on the jobs. Mrs. Funn presented a list of about 40 Negro workers who had succeeded with the help of the National Negro Congress in Brooklyn, in getting jobs in industries formerly closed to them. She showed that in every instance the union supported the applicant for the job and that white and Negro workers, once they had established relations in the shop, got along well together.

Several of the 14 workers present spoke of their experiences in shops where previously Negroes had never been employed. Some explained the methods they used in approaching men and women they described as "backward" about accepting their Negro fellow worker as an equal.

INFERIOR JOBS

The jobs which the Congress, with the help of the trade unions, had procured for Negro workers, Mrs. Funn said, were in almost all instances inferior to the jobs for which these young people were qualified. Charles W. Bingham was named as one of those whose training fitted him for more highly skilled work at higher pay than he was able to get.

Bingham lives at 81 Chauncy St. Brooklyn, and has been porter in a theatre, hotel dishwasher and busboy. For a while, following his graduation from Pratt Institute's School for Science and Technology, Bingham worked for the National Youth Administration as draughtsman and designer. Later he completed a three-year course at Pratt in mechanical engineering. He holds a pilot's license.

Bingham's story of attempts to get jobs was a recital of rebuffs and insults. Through efforts of the National Negro Congress and in its job campaign and assisted by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 1224, CIO, he got his present job, operating a power press, which makes sheet metal into forms. He says he is the only Negro in the shop but that he gets along well with the other workers.

Thelma Vaciannie, of 4 Decatur St., Brooklyn, had been without work for six months when the National Negro Congress and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 1224, CIO, got her a job with the David Karon Corporation as operator of a power press machine making pocketbook frames.

Her wages, too, are low, she says, but $14 a week is better than no wages. Most of the girls in that industry are now Negroes, she says, white girls having moved along to jobs which pay a slightly higher minimum. The white girls were not used to working with Negro girls, Miss Vaciannie says, but they are coming around all right. She has been on this job two and a half months.

Whitney Parker, 127 Bidewell St., Jersey City, now working at the Solar Manufacturing Co., Bayonne, N. J., at $23 weekly, also got his job through the National Negro Congress and the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America. He averred that many white workers are at first "bashful" or "timid" of the Negro who enters their shop. He said that he made the first move in his new place of employment to overcome this "backwardness" on the part of the whites.

"The relationship between us now is fine," Parker ended.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

NEGRO MOTORMEN IN BROOKLYN

JUL 12 1941

IN ANNOUNCING the appointment of six Negroes as motormen on the trolley cars of Brooklyn last week, the reporter neglected to point out that the trolley lines of Brooklyn are now a part of the unified transit system of New York and the appointments came through the Municipal Civil Service and not through the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Corporation, as was stated in the article. Credit is therefore due the city administration for removing a color barrier and opening up another field of employment for Negroes.

As is generally known now, under Mayor LaGuardia the City of New York has recaptured the subways and most of the other transit facilities formerly operated by private companies. When the Eighth Avenue Subway was opened in 1936, Negroes who had previously had experience as Pullman Porters and other railroad workers, were given opportunity to qualify as guards, and later to take examinations as motormen on this subway line, which was from the beginning municipally operated. Last year, the B. M. T. and I. R. T. lines were taken over by the City of New York and all have been unified and are being operated by the City Board of Transportation. At the present time, several hundred Negroes are employed in various capacities in the transportation system of the city.

The opening up of jobs to Negroes on the Brooklyn trolleys, which are soon to be replaced by buses, is evidence that the old argument that white mechanics will not work with Negroes is untrue. It also recalls to mind the contract signed some months ago by the private operating company of busses in Manhattan in which a promise was made to employ Negroes on the Eighth and Lenox avenue busses. To date, a dozen or more Negroes have been trained as bus operators but none have been employed.

A comparison of the attitude of the private companies operating transportation lines in New York with that of the City makes us strongly in favor of municipal operation of all city transportation systems.

35g-1941

NEW YORK

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Alexander King Promoted To Asst. Superintendent of Delivery In New York City Post Office

DEC 6 - 1941

By his promotion of Alexander King to the position of assistant superintendent of delivery in the office of the Supt. of Delivery, made signal tribute to the lasting contributions made by the Negro people to the efficient operation of the New York Post Office.

The first Negro to attain such a position of prominence in the New York Post Office, Mr. King reaches his rank through the medium of quiet and conscientious service over a period of years—qualities which are not unrecognized by New York's democratic and liberal Postmaster.

DEC 6 - 1941

He reaches the apex of his career after fifty years of distinguished service. Starting as a substitute clerk in Station "W" on March 30, 1892, the new assistant superintendent of delivery served in practically every capacity along the line: from regular clerk to assistant superintendent, to bookkeeper, to superintendent, to assistant cashier—and now his present position.

DEC 6 - 1941

His work has not been confined to one point in the city. He served not only in Station "W" on West 83rd street, but also in College Station in the heart of Harlem, in Station "U" on East 106 street, in Wall street, Station, and in the shadow of the Mayor's office—the old City Hall Post Office.

Mr. King brings to his new office a wealth of experience and knowledge which, under the able leadership of Postmaster Albert Goldman, and his immediate chief, the Superintendent of Delivery, Joseph Willon, he will now have ample opportunity to use.

To Alexander King belongs also the enviable distinction of being the first Negro clerk in the New York Post office to be promoted to a supervisory position when he was promoted to the assistant superintendent of Wall Street Station on February 17, 1907.

DEC 6 - 1941

That was a long time ago. But he carries his years—all 68 of them very well. He's a walking advertisement of the dividends to be paid by sound, healthful living. The Harlem YMCA has no more loyal and ardent supporter than Mr. King who demonstrates by example what sensible living and sound application to a job can do.

New York's first Negro assistant superintendent of delivery was the recipient of warm congratulations from his wealth of friends and numerous co-workers, all of whom joined in expressing their happiness in his new promotion.

The positions held by Mr. King since he was appointed sub clerk at Station "W" in March 30, 1892 are as follows; have all been promotions: June 20, 1892, regular clerk, Station "W"; February 17, 1907, assistant superintendent, Wall Street Station; November 16, 1917, bookkeeper, Wall street Station; April 1, 1922, assistant superintendent, College Station; July 1, 1922, superintendent, College Station; July 16, 1925, superintendent, Station "U"; August 1, 1937, assistant cashier at City Hall Annex; December 1, 1941, assistant superintendent of delivery in the Office of the Superintendent of Delivery.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Workers' League Rejects Mitchell As Rally Speaker

DEC 13 1941

DEC 13 1941

NEW YORK, Dec. 11—In a wire charging him with "betraying labor's cause," the Workers' Defense League withdrew its invitation to Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, First Congressional District of Illinois, who had agreed to participate in a symposium on "Is the Bill of Rights in Danger," Thursday, December 4th, at Labor Stage in New York City.

The action came as a result of a statement made by Mitchell, reported in the Chicago Tribune, November 20, which called upon Negro miners to act as strikebreakers in the recent UMWA strike against the captive mines.

New York councilman-elect Adam Clayton Powell Jr., was substituted. Other speakers include George S. Counts, president, American Federation of Teachers; Frank Rosenblum, vice-president of the CIO; W. W. Rodgers, the new secretary of the American Newspaper Guild; John F. Finerty, counsel for sharecropper Odell Waller.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Western Union Lads Menaced

NOV 29 1941

East Side Hoodlums In Ugly Mood Toward Messengers

Western Union messengers, recently assigned to that company's Park Ave. and 125th St. office, are likely to be the cause of an East Side "race riot" most any night, the Star-News learned Wednesday, and the police know little, if anything, about it.

NOV 29 1941

Officials of Western Union denied the report when asked whether they knew or not, that their employes had been threatened by Italian youths living in the Second and Third Ave. area.

A Mr. Carroll, described as superintendent of service, told reporters: "It's news to me. You fellows must be mixed up, maybe it's the boys over at Postal."

Nevertheless, it was learned that Manager Knapp, of the Park Ave. office, was informed by memo on November 20: "The colored messenger trouble started again on the East Side tonight. The East Side gangs pounced on all our boys delivering routes down there. I called the police but the messengers refused all routes down East. I'm afraid that there's going to be trouble as the messengers are all fortified with knives which they intend to use, if bothered again. (I'm not supposed to know that but I overheard the conversations outside the window and saw the weapons.) I spoke to Mr. Fiedeldey who suggested writing a note."

The office communication was signed by a Mr. MacHugel. The Star-News inquired at the East 126th St. police station, but apparently officials there didn't know much about the trouble.

NOV 29 1941

When told that a Western Union messenger was attacked by four Italian boys Sunday night, a desk lieutenant replied that no complaint had been made about the alleged fight. Efforts to get information from the messengers proved futile, also. They were reluctant to even give their names, but reporters learned, however, that three of the messengers are known as Ralph Crocker, Henry Baker and Ralph Parker.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

First Teller

DEC 13 1941

DEC 13 1941

James J. Watson, of 521 Macon Street, Brooklyn, who is the first colored teller at the Empire City Savings Bank, on 125th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. Mr. Watson is a graduate of Commerce High School and attended City College and the American Institute of Banking. He was formerly a clerk in the Dunbar National Bank and also head of the service department of newspaper PM.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

N.C. Redcaps' Wage-Hour Suit Asks $24,928

MAR 2 2 1941 35g

RALEIGH, N.C.—Redcaps employed at the Union Station here filed suit on Thursday in United States District Court for $24,928 allegedly owed them by the Southern and Seaboard Railway Companies under the federal wage-hour law.

Harvey Black seeking back pay to the amount of $2,780.40, filed the suit representing the following eleven men who are asking the following amounts and "other employees similarly affected":

Murphy Austin, $2,780.40; Lacy J. Byrd, $1,224; Frederick Newberry, Jr., $2,780.40; Louis Newberry, $1,588.80; Joseph Poole, $1,422; William Strickland, $2,780.40; Henry Strickland, $1,999.20; Nathaniel Bell, $678.20; Emmett McNeil, $2,780.40, and Robert Strickland, $2,780.40.

Cite Violation of Act

The men are asking back pay at the rate of 25 cents and hour from October, 1938 to October, 1939; and a minimum of 30 cents an hour after October, 1939, to the present date.

The suit also charges that on February 5, the railways began paying wages of 30 cents an hour but required redcaps to return 10 cents on each parcel or piece of baggage carried, which is cited as unfair and a violation of the act.

MAR 2 2 1941

The case, which will be tried in the September term of Civil Court was filed by Ellis Nasif as attorney for the redcaps, and names as defendants the Southern Railway and L. C. Powell, Jr., and Henry W. Anderson, receivers for the Seaboard Airline Railway.

Asheville N C Times
March 12, 1941

J.H. Enwright Tells Of Jobs For Negroes

John H. Enwright, manager of the Langren hotel, addressed boys at the Stephens Lee high school, negro, today on opportunities for young men in the position of chef or steward in hotels or in military camps. He discussed the training necessary for such positions; and the future for both negroes and white persons in that field.

The talk was one of a series on business opportunities for negro boys being given by members of the Asheville Rotary club. Following today's talk, a round table discussion was held. Roger A. Grant answered a number of questions concerning opportunities in the baking business.

Herbert Caskey, chairman of youth service for the club, also was present.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Redcaps Seeking $24,928 In Suit Filed In N.C.

MAR 2 1 1941 35g

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP)—Redcaps of this city joined in the fight in which thousands of redcaps all over the country are engaged for back wages allegedly owed them by the Southern and Seaboard railways. Under the federal wage-hour law, 13 men employed at the Union station here are seeking $24,928 due them since October, 1938, when the law went into effect.

MAR 2 1 1941

The action was filed by Harvey Black, individually and as agent for 12 other redcaps. Named as defendents were the receivers for the Southern and Seaboar[illegible]ways.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Saw Mill Operator Pays Legal Wages, Then Takes Back Part

APR 25 1941 NC

WILSON, N. C.—(ANP)—A federal court judge found Kemp Billings, saw mill operator, guilty of contempt of court for violating the wage-hour law at his mill, after he had agreed to a consent judgment and injunction against his place last year. He had at that time agreed to abide by the wage-hour act, but it was brought out in court Monday that Billings had failed to do so.

Witnesses for the government, employes of Billings, testified that their employer would pay them $2.40 a day and then take 40 cents back from them. They said they returned the money at his request and he had told them "I just can't afford to pay you more than 20 cents an hour."

APR 25 1941

"Sometimes he took it out of our pay envelopes and sometimes we gave it back to him when he asked for it," one worker said. Walter Copeland, an employe, said that Billings paid them only for the time the mill was running.

When Billings took the stand, he said he had taken the 40 cents a day from the employes for carrying them to and from work daily. On questioning by Federal Judge Meekins, Billings said he charged a man just as much to haul him two miles as he did one hauled 20. Billings was given a six months suspended sentence. The judge warned, "You'll have to pay these workers of yours 30 cents an hour for eight hours work a day."

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
September 13, 1941

Visitors From Pennsylvania

Mr. and Mrs. James Axiom, of Ridley Park, Pa., spent the past week-end in Winston-Salem with old-time friends. Mr. Axiom is a former resident of this city. During his younger days he lived here with his parents on South Cherry street.

While here Sunday and Monday he noted so many changes in the growth of the city's population, as well as industrially, that he was able to find comparatively few people he knew before he moved away a number of years ago.

Other visitors here during the past week were Mr. and Mrs. Fred McKenzie, of Pittsburgh, Pa. The husband is a son of Braxton McKinzie, of this city, who was associated with the Reynolds Tobacco Company for about 32 years, retiring some five years ago. He was foreman in one of the departments and says he never had but one "scrap" with the 500 Negroes who worked under his direction. This Negro became unruly and made a few threats—that was before he was knocked down by his boss, according to the former foreman. He was succeeded on that job by Frank Hauser, who still holds that position.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Ben Thornton Has Served 4 Governors

By A. A. MORISEY
Staff Correspondent

RALEIGH, N. C.—One of the most widely known and respected employees of the State of North Carolina is Ben Thornton, who, holding a position in the Governor's office, is now serving his fourth executive.

Mr. Thornton's popularity was enchanced even further recently when the decision was made for him to be uniformed and his picture was published in the News and Observer.

NOV 15 1941

Outstanding among his duties of all sorts in the office of the Chief Executive is that of keeper of the Great Seal of the Great State of North Carolina. That in itself is a task which is performed many times each day inasmuch as a large volume of documents and the like, go out of the office with each batch of mail.

Mr. Thornton's new uniform is navy blue with brass buttons, a blue cap, grey shirt, and black tie. Emblazoned on the left sleeve of the uniform are the words, "Governor's Office."

35g

Formerly Mr. Thornton worked in civilian clothes and it was at the suggestion of Governor J Melville Broughton that the uniform came into use.

A native of Warrenton the courtly messenger comes from a distinguished family. His uncle, Marshall F. Thornton, was for nineteen years register of deeds in Warrenton.

NOV 15 1941

His first service in the Governor's office was for former Governor O. Max Gardner and he has also served J. C. B. Eringhaus and Clyde R. Hoey before the present Governor took office.

For many years Mr. Thornton has been known among the best families of the city and served as butler in the home of the late Ashby L. Baker for 18 years. He at various times served at the Capitol Club and the Caroline Country Club. Even now he receives many calls for service at parties and often serves at the Governor's Mansion.

He was married forty years ago and there are two children, Louise and Ben, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton hold membership at St. Paul AME Church, here.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
August 21, 1941

Gastonians At Work

ARTHUR COSTNER—SCHOOL JANITOR

359 NC

Story by DELBERT LAZENBY :-: Photo by ENNIS ATKINS

He has wiped the noses of senators; he has buttoned up the pants of hard-boiled bankers; he has seen dull-witted dreamers grow into popular acclaim; and he has seen child prodigies develop into red-faced bar flies.

In 41 years with the city school system, Arthur Costner has seen thousands of starry-eyed youngsters flush with the confusion of their first day at school. And he has remained to see their offspring of the second generation, starry-eyed with the same excitement, enter school for the first time. And he has been a kind of patron saint to many of them.

When the city first began to operate its free public schools back in the year 1901, Arthur Costner was a young colored man of 18, and was working at the time for the late 'Squire Anders, who operated a livery stable which stood on Main street. Arthur applied for the job as janitor and was accepted. And he has been with the city schools ever since. He served at Central School for 24 years.

Arthur's job with the city school system is a year-round position. During the winter months he is head janitor at the high school, and during the summer vacation period, he keeps the various school buildings in order, installs window panes to replace those knocked out by sandlot baseballers and vandals, and does other work, which is ample to keep him busy. When The Gazette representatives found him he was installing window panes at Arlington School in West Gastonia.

Arthur vividly remembers State Senator R. Gregg Cherry, former speaker of the house, and known throughout the State as the "Iron Major." Mr. Cherry, he recalls, was different from the other boys and girls even as a youngster. While the others would be out playing baseball or otherwise seeking excitement, Senator Cherry, he says, would be in some secluded corner, book in hand, studying subjects far above his own grade. He says he and the late Prof. J. S. Wray recalled this while Mr. Cherry was on his way to France in 1918. Arthur also remembers Attorney Ernest Warren and his sisters, and numerous others who have gone out into the world and made good.

Arthur Costner is about 59 years old now. He was born in Dallas back about 1882. His father was the late Lee Costner, who was a shoemaker there, and his mother was the late Sally (Pegram) Costner of Dallas. His father passed away when Arthur was five years old, and he early learned the meaning of hard work.

Arthur was married something like 25 years ago in a "white man's house" in Bowling Green. He and his wife live at 604 North York street, and they attend the A. M. E. Zion Church on the Gastonia-Dallas road. They have no children of their own, but they both are fond of children, so they have adopted four of them. There were no "writings" connected with the adoptions. They just invited four children who needed a home to come live with them. One of these they sent to Lincoln University.

Back in the first days of the public schools Arthur had to arrive at the school house before daybreak, build fires in the stoves, which were placed in each room, and then ring the bell before starting on his regular chores for the day. He was supposed to ring the tardy bell for a certain period of time, but Arthur says he has many times given it a few extra rings to keep some pupil from being classified as tardy. This stood him in great favor with many of them.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

He Has Served Four Governors

NOV 15 1941
359 NC

NOV 15 1941

The seal of the State of North Carolina is entrusted in the keeping of Ben Thornton, employed in the Governor's office. Mr. Thornton is a native of North Warrenton, N. C. and is a nephew of Marshall F. Thornton who for 19 years was register of deeds in Warrenton, N. C. The state employee is serving his fourth Governor. He is shown here fixing the seal to one of the many documents which leave the Chief Executive's office in Raleigh. (Photo courtesy Raleigh News and Observer)

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
August 21, 1941

Gastonians At Work

ARTHUR COSTNER—SCHOOL JANITOR

359 NC

Story by DELBERT LAZENBY :-: Photo by ENNIS ATKINS

He has wiped the noses of senators; he has buttoned up the pants of hard-boiled bankers; he has seen dull-witted dreamers grow into popular acclaim; and he has seen child prodigies develop into red-faced bar flies.

In 41 years with the city school system, Arthur Costner has seen thousands of starry-eyed youngsters flush with the confusion of their first day at school. And he has remained to see their offspring of the second generation, starry-eyed with the same excitement, enter school for the first time. And he has been a kind of patron saint to many of them.

When the city first began to operate its free public schools back in the year 1901, Arthur Costner was a young colored man of 18, and was working at the time for the late 'Squire Anders, who operated a livery stable which stood on Main street. Arthur applied for the job as janitor and was accepted. And he has been with the city schools ever since. He served at Central School for 24 years.

Arthur's job with the city school system is a year-round position. During the winter months he is head janitor at the high school, and during the summer vacation period, he keeps the various school buildings in order, installs window panes to replace those knocked out by sandlot baseballers and vandals, and does other work, which is ample to keep him busy. When The Gazette representatives found him he was installing window panes at Arlington School in West Gastonia.

Arthur vividly remembers State Senator R. Gregg Cherry, former speaker of the house, and known throughout the State as the "Iron Major." Mr. Cherry, he recalls, was different from the other boys and girls even as a youngster. While the others would be out playing baseball or otherwise seeking excitement, Senator Cherry, he says, would be in some secluded corner, book in hand, studying subjects far above his own grade. He says he and the late Prof. J. S. Wray recalled this while Mr. Cherry was on his way to France in 1918. Arthur also remembers Attorney Ernest Warren and his sisters, and numerous others who have gone out into the world and made good.

Arthur Costner is about 59 years old now. He was born in Dallas back about 1882. His father was the late Lee Costner, who was a shoemaker there, and his mother was the late Sally (Pegram) Costner of Dallas. His father passed away when Arthur was five years old, and he early learned the meaning of hard work.

Arthur was married something like 25 years ago in a "white man's house" in Bowling Green. He and his wife live at 604 North York street, and they attend the A. M. E. Zion Church on the Gastonia-Dallas road. They have no children of their own, but they both are fond of children, so they have adopted four of them. There were no "writings" connected with the adoptions. They just invited four children who needed a home to come live with them. One of these they sent to Lincoln University.

Back in the first days of the public schools Arthur had to arrive at the school house before daybreak, build fires in the stoves, which were placed in each room, and then ring the bell before starting on his regular chores for the day. He was supposed to ring the tardy bell for a certain period of time, but Arthur says he has many times given it a few extra rings to keep some pupil from being classified as tardy. This stood him in great favor with many of them.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

He Has Served Four Governors

NOV 15 1941

359 NC

NOV 15 1941

The seal of the State of North Carolina is entrusted in the keeping of Ben Thornton, employed in the Governor's office. Mr. Thornton is a native of North Warrenton, N. C. and is a nephew of Marshall F. Thornton who for 19 years was register of deeds in Warrenton, N. C. The state employee is serving his fourth Governor. He is shown here fixing the seal to one of the many documents which leave the Chief Executive's office in Raleigh. (Photo courtesy Raleigh News and Observer)

35g-1941 OHIO

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

OHIO GOVERNOR HEARS EMPLOYMENT REPORT

AUG 2 1941

359

Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio met with the advisory commission on employment problems of Negroes for the purpose of discussing more ways by which qualified Negro workers may be integrated into national defense and private industry in Ohio. This newly created commission appointed February 7 is a direct outgrowth of the Ohio State Conference on Employment Problems of the Negro sponsored by Governor Bricker's interest in Negro labor. The committee, after contact with employers and industry throughout the state of Ohio in a strong effort to alleviate the unemployment conditions among Negroes, made a report of progress to the governor Fred G. Bennett of the Buckeye Steel Casting company, Columbus, who is chairman of the commission, appointed last year by Governor Bricker reported that the expanding opportunities for Negro labor in defense and non-defense industries had outgrown all expected possibilities. He stated in the commission's report that great progress through efforts of the commission was being made so that most of the employers are favorable to employing Negro workers. The commission's survey indicated that the antagonistic attitude of Negroes working with whites is decreasing rapidly. Mr. Bennett reported that the commissioners' interest had increased because of the new attitude of employers toward Negro labor.

AUG 2 1941

35g-1941
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Bell Phone Co., Cleveland Agrees To Hire Negroes

335g

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—The management of the Ohio Bell Telephone company announced that it would employ 25 Race men and women in semi-skilled jobs at the company's Huron road building.

The announcement followed a series of conferences between the company's president, Randolph Eide, and the committee composed of John O. Holly, president of the Future Outlook League; Atty. Charles W. Quick, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Assistant Police Prosecutor Perry B. Jackson, a director of the Cleveland Urban League who substituted for Sidney Williams, executive secretary of the league who was unable to attend the conference.

JUN 28 1941

Last week telephone employment supervisors interview a large number of Race applicants for jobs, the nature of which are not known, although there is some indication that the women would be employed as elevator operators in the company's main building and later if they make good, be integrated into other departments of the company.

The settlement, while not meeting all the demands of the Future Outlook League which only a few weeks ago threw a picket line in front of the massive office building, was hailed by Holly and the rest of the committee as a "glorious victory."

In an interview with reporters, Eide, president of the company, stated that he was "happy to cooperate with the colored patrons in their efforts to improve the economic conditions of colored men and women of Cleveland."

JUN 28 1941

In a public statement President Holly of the F.O.L. said, "The action of the Bell Telephone company through its president, Mr. Eide, employing our men and women in the semi-skilled, and possibly later on in the skilled department of the gigantic utility, is a fine beginning of the type of democracy that we Americans are willing to defend."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ICC Upholds Redcap Body In Fee Fight

335g
Ohio

WASHINGTON, D. C., (ANP)—The Cincinnati Union Terminal company was ordered Friday by the Interstate Commerce commission to file a tariff covering the charges of red caps for carrying the baggage of passengers. It is expected that this ruling will apply to other cities as well as Cincinnati.

JUL 19 1941

A 10 cent charge per unit of baggage was found by the commission not unreasonable. Despite a previous ruling that the service performed by the red caps was a form of transportation service subject to regulation, the commission found that the service is a personal one and not subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

JUL 19 1941

OHIO
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLEVELAND PHONE COMPANY EMPLOYS 25 RACE WORKERS

Ohio 335g

CLEVELAND, June 26 (ANP)—A movement sponsored by the Future Outlook League to procure jobs for Negroes had its initial victory last week when the Ohio Bell Telephone company announced that it would employ 25 Negroes in semi-skilled work at the company's downtown headquarters.

JUN 28 1941

The league was aided in its fight by representatives of the Urban League and the NAACP, who met with company president, Randolph Eide, in a series of conferences. At the final conference a compromise settlement was reached and all of the demands of the militant while the concessions do not meet Future Outlook League program, still the results have been hailed as a "glorious victory."

Representatives of the three groups, John O. Holly, president of the F.O.L.; Atty. Charles W. Quick, executive secretary of the Cleveland NAACP, and Sidney Williams, Urban League head, stressed the double significance to the great masses of the Negro people should be the fact that three major Negro organizations were united in their endeavor to procure jobs, and that they were assisted by every segment of Negro life. This unity bespeaks new hope for the Cleveland Negro."

JUN 28 1941

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Cleveland Phone Company Employs 25 Negro Workers

Ohio 335g

CLEVELAND, July 4 (ANP)—A movement sponsored by the Future Outlook League to procure jobs for Negroes had its initial victory last week when the Ohio Bell Telephone company announced that it would employ 29 Negroes in semi-skilled work at the company's downtown head quarters.

JUL 4 1941

The league was aided in its fight by representatives of the Urban League and the NAACP, who met with company president, Randolph Eide, in a series of conferences. At the final conference a compromise settlement was reached and while the concessions do not meet all of the demands of the militant Future Outlook League program, still the results have been hailed as a "glorious victory".

Representatives of the three groups John O. Holly, president of the F.O.L. Atty. Charles W. Quick, executive secretary of the Cleveland NAACP, and Sidney Williams, Urban League head, stressed the double significance to the great masses of the Negro people should be the fact that three major Negro organizations were united in their endeavor to procure jobs and that they were assisted by every segment of Negro life. This unity bespeaks new hope for the Cleveland Negro."

JUL 4 1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Employment of Race Workers On Increase, Survey Shows

JUL 12 1941

COLUMBUS, O.—Employment of qualified Negroes in defense and non-defense industries is constantly increasing in Ohio, H. C. Atkinson, administrator of the bureau of unemployment compensation, informed Gov. John W. Bricker in a report made public last week.

According to the report, a total of 12,697 jobs were filed by Negro men and women during the first four months of 1941 through the facilities of the employment service division.

This increase in Negro placements, if continued throughout 1941, the Administrator said, would better by one-third the 23,818 such placements made during the entire year of 1940, and would far out-distance the total of 17,721 made in 1939 and 13,656 in 1938.

SURVEY MADE

It was pointed out that a total of 36,933 Negro applicants were listed in the active files of the employment service division, according to a survey completed May 6. Many of these workers, classified in skilled and semi-skilled occupations, are being employed to fill shortages which exist in defense and non-defense industries, the report continued.

In Cleveland, which may be used as a barometer for the larger industrial areas in the state, Negroes have been placed in a wide variety of skilled and semi-skilled jobs. Among these are draftsmen, sheet metal workers, molders, welders.

JUL 12 1941

As an indication of Negro employment in defense industries, Mr. Atkinson disclosed a definite need for Negro workers in other classifications, specifying machinist's apprentices, boilermakers, plumbers, steamfitters, blacksmiths and flame cutters.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Ohio 'Phone Co. Employs Race Girls

CLEVELAND, Ohio—As the outgrowth of the militant battle staged by the Future Outlook league, cooperating with the Cleveland branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Cleveland Urban league, 13 Negro girls are operating the elevators in the main building of the Ohio Bell telephone company for the first time in the history of Cleveland.

AUG 2 1941

The change marks the beginning of operation of a newly-formed company policy of giving recognition to our group in return for the millions of dollars Cleveland Negroes have been pouring into the company's treasury.

The girls recommended to the company by the several organizations instrumental in securing the employment victory, were selected by the personnel supervisors after interviewing some 200 girls.

W. T. Anthony, vice president of the company, expressed pleasure in the fact that there had been very few protests registered by the company employees or the general public. He expressed the belief that the girls would win friends as they worked each day on the lifts.

The same opinion was expressed by Personnel Director Meade.

Expressing elation over the accomplishment, John O. Holly, president of the Outlook league, stated that the company officers had informed him that the selection of Negro men for employment with the company was progressing rapidly, but because of the necessity for a slightly longer training period for the men, their employment will be delayed a while longer.

AUG 2 1941

CLEVELAND, Ohio — For the first time in the history of the city five Negro girls have replaced white girls and are operating elevators at the Main Public library in the heart of downtown Cleveland.

The girls selected from a group of 50 or more applicants by library directors, were given a course of training, consuming nearly a week before being placed on the elevators. Intelligence and personal appearance were important factors in the selection of the girls.

AUG 2 1941

The girls are Erona Harris, Effie Lee Morris, Roger Mae Johnson, Margery Stewart, and Mildred Taylor.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EMPLOYMENT INCREASE FOR OHIO NEGROES

COLUMBUS, O., July 31—(ANP)—Expanding employment opportunities for Negro workers in defense and other industries throughout Ohio were reported by racial relations representatives and local office managers of the Ohio state employment service at a conference held here last week.

AUG 2 1941

An analysis of job placements by the Ohio state employment service revealed that a total of 23,396 jobs were filed by Negroes through the service during the first six months of 1941, a gain of almost 100 percent over the year 1940.

The conference, first of its kind, was called by Chester J. Gray, supervisor of the racial relations unit of the employment service division. Sessions were held in the central office here of the Ohio Bureau of unemployment compensation of which the employment service is a division.

35g-1941 OHIO

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

White Cleveland Daily Advocates Use Of Skilled Negro Workers

CLEVELAND, May 14—(ANP)—A recent editorial appearing in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, leading white daily, points to the rebuilding of St. James A. M. E. church by Negro artisans and uses this fact as an argument for their capability and a plea that they should be employed in industrial trades. The editorial read in part:

"At a time when the leaders of this race (Negro) have been trying, with the active cooperation of many others in all walks of life, to break down the nothing that the Negro lacks ability in the more skilled crafts, this church has been built entirely by Negro artisans. That fact should help a great deal in eliminating opposition to the employment of Negroes in the more skilled and more lucrative industrial trades.

"Nor will the removal of that prejudice benefit the colored race alone. Even in normal times, the whole community would gain by raising the living standards and increasing the self-respect of the Negro workman. In this time of national emergency it is especially important that this great reserve of man power be used. Even if it were not necessary to our physical safety, it would be essential to our spiritual defense; for so long as we have not given all the benefits of democracy to some of our own citizens we shall not be completely unassailable in our effort to restore democracy to the citizens of other nations."

MAY 23 1941

The occasion which inspired the editorial was the dedication on May 4th of a new $100,000 auditorium of the St. James Church built to replace the structure destroyed by fire three years ago. The St. James forum is known all over the country for significant discussions of outstanding political, religious and cultural topics.

Taking part in the dedication ceremonies were W. R. Ricks, chairman of the trustee board; Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom of the Third Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Church; Bishop C. H. Phillips of the C. M. E. Church; Bishop Frank Madison Reid of South Africa and St. Louis, and Dr. Geo. A. Singleton, editor of the Christian Recorder, Philadelphia. A picture of the Rev. Joseph Gomez, pastor of St. James, was unveiled and presented to the church as a memorial to his work both in the past and during the fund raising campaign which enable the building of the new auditorium.

35g-1941

OHIO

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

NEGRO YOUTH HAS 19% OF NYA JOBS IN OHIO

JAN 5 1941

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Leo B. Jacobs, new administrator of the National Youth Administration for Ohio, this week announced that 19 per cent of the NYA enrollees in Ohio NYA production shops are Negro youth, fitting themselves in such shops for jobs in defense industries.

Mr. Jacobs said a recent analysis by his office showed 707 Negro youth are in part-time employment in production shops of Ohio NYA.

There are between 1,500 and 2,000 Negro youth employed in the total NYA out-of-school Ohio program, most of whom are at work on outdoor construction developments. About 75 per cent of Negro enrollees are male, 25 per cent female. There are about 12,000 youth of both races enrolled in Ohio NYA.

Most Ohio NYA work has recently been shifted to provide part time work experience for Ohio youth who may qualify for jobs in industries which are expanding to meet the needs of national defense. Industrialists have expressed a need for experienced young workers.

"And we are doing our part at the other end," Jacobs said, "By providing the white and Negro youth who come to us with the experience they need so badly If they are to secure these jobs which are opening in private industry, they must have experience More than ever before it is NYA's job to give youth intensified work experience. In the past NYA has cooperated with industry to give it experienced youth—all NYA preparation is for private employment. Industry is on the upgrade, but cannot afford to jeopardize defense orders by accepting inexperienced workers. America is preparing, and NYA is preparing its youth to help that preparedness.

JAN 5 1941

"Ohio Negro youth," the administrator continued, "are being given their chance. There is no reason why the Negro young man should not qualify for industrial employment during this crisis. This is his chance to prepare himself for substantial employment, and make his contribution to responsible citizenship. Our economy is one of high production and NYA is gearing its shops to a production world."

The table of figures released by Administrator Jacobs is as follows:

White Male Shop Enrolles ..	2,334
White Female Shop Enrolles .	569
Negro Male Shop Enrolles ..	424
Negro Female Shop Enrolles	283
Production Shop Employment TOTAL	3,610

Administrator Jacobs added that the NYA Field Representative for Ohio Negro Affairs, Alexander D. Gaither, has been instructed to work closely with local committees in the Ohio Negro communities, so that youth who are qualified for shop work can be selected speedily, and referred to NYA for assignment.

NYA's Ohio production shops offer a broad range of experience, and produce many thousands of useful articles for public agencies. In all the work units Negro boys and girls work beside white youth, frequently on a fifty-fifty basis.

Sheet metal shops produce heavy-duty refuse containers for cities; hampers and metal baskets for hospitals, and other agencies; metal containers of all kinds for government and subdivisional public sponsorship.

JAN 5 1941

Machine shops are rebuilding NYA metal-working machinery, making tools and dies, and performing many maintenance jobs of turning, milling, and grinding which enable such shops to keep shop machinery of public agencies in working condition.

Auto mechanics units of NYA in Ohio repair and maintain in service the many heavy-duty and pickup-type trucks used in public agency construction projects. NYA's truck fleet is on duty every week day throughout the state in construction projects for cities and counties. Also, used federal automobile made available to NYA are repaired and serviced in the auto units.

Aviation mechanics is the Ohio NYA's only non-production shop activity, since aviation production is a highly skilled technical operation. Aviation mechanics units are maintained for special experience schedules in which qualified high school graduates are given the experience of tearing down and reassembling complete aircraft motors made available to NYA by airplane associations. Such units are set up in cooperation with the public schools. One of these units operating at Wilberforce university enrolls only Negro young men of high ability in mechanical work.

In NYA's short-wave radio units also, Negro youth work side by side with white boys in assembling transmitters, repairing radio equipment, and learning short-wave codes in preparation for their licensing examinations. NYA's short-wave radio projects have been set up in cooperation with the U. S. Army. Radio equipment production already has equipped 12 complete short-wave radio projects. Radio enrollees also work in general electrical repair and installation jobs for NYA.

JAN 5 1941

In Ohio NYA's foundry, welding, and similar projects, ceramics projects, and similar units, Negro boys are working on orders for Ohio agencies fabricating metalwork, welding broken tools and mobile body sections, making dishes and ceramic containers for welfare agencies and for NYA's resident projects.

JAN 5 1941

Negro and white girls are enrolled in wood-working shops where office furniture is made and repaired, and useful wooden articles are produced for public agencies. Heavy work in such shops is performed by male enrollees, but NYA has opened its woodshops to girls in line with the President's statement that American youth of both sexes should be given the opportunity to prepare themselves for the defense job. Manipulative skills of young women are increased greatly by such work.

Still other Negro girls do production sewing jobs in company with white girls, in NYA's seamstress projects, which handle huge orders for hospitals, welfare agencies, and for NYA itself, which uses many shop coats, student center work clothes, and aprons, assigned to clerical office work in Ohio NYA projects.

JAN 5 1941

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Jobs Promised Negro Citizens in Columbus, Ohio Airplane Plant

JAN 18 1941

COLUMBUS, O. — Speaking for Mayor Green, Maynard H. Hyland, secretary of the city board of purchase told a citizens' mass meeting here last week that colored people will share in the 12,000 jobs opening up at the local Curtiss-Wright airplane plant at Port Columbus.

The meeting, which was sponsored by the local branch of the NAACP, was held at the Centenary Methodist Church. Walter White, executive secretary of the association, was the principal speaker.

Pointing out that the "peril to national safety is real," Mr. White urged the citizens to develop a strong "organized protest," in order to break down discrimination in the country's armed forces and in defense industry.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

R.R. Mail Clerk Wins Promotion

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Alonzo L. Glenn, was recently advanced to the position of clerk-in-charge in the Railway Mail service on the Twentieth Century limited, crack New York Central train. He has been in the postal service for more than 20 years and is assigned to the western division running into Chicago.

Glenn is a former president of the National Alliance of Postal Employees, having held the office from 1921 to 1925. He is a member of the Chicago branch of the organization. The responsibilities of the new official include the supervision of railway mail clerks on one of the most busy routes in the United States. Glenn entered the postal service in Atlanta, Ga. He moved to Cleveland with his family several years ago.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLEVELAND TO HIRE NEGRO MOTORMEN

MAY 3 1941

CLEVELAND, O., May 1—Some of Cleveland's street cars soon will be operated by Negroes.

The Cleveland Railway Co., which never has hired Negro motormen, started taking applications from them Monday. It is said that the trolley company was "having trouble getting the right kind of men" for its operating personnel.

Ohio

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Ohio Has 36,000 Negroes Wanting Jobs

JUN 5 1941

COLUMBUS, Ohio—(ANP) — A total of 36,833 Negro applicants were listed in the files of the Ohio State Employment service on May 6 as available for employment, according to a report made to H. C. Atkinson, administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, by Chester J. Gray, supervisor, racial relations unit of the employment service division.

Many of these workers are classified in skilled and semi-skilled occupations in which shortages exist in regular and defense industries, the report pointed out.

35g

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Motormen and Drivers to Get Jobs in Cleveland. O.

MAY 1 1941

Cleveland, Ohio,—Cleveland's Harlem is jubilant this week over the news that the Cleveland city railway is accepting, beginning Monday, applications from Negroe men to be hired as motormen and bus operators.

MAY 1 1941

The railway management's action is the result of pressure from the various civic and militant organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, headed in Cleveland by Dr. Grant Reynolds, the militant John O. Holly, and various ministers and laymen's organization.

The management of the railway made the important announcement Saturday. In making the announcement President Frank R. Hanrahan had the following to say:

"A large percentage of the patrons of our railway system are Negroes and so it is both justice and sound business that the race be represented among our operating employees."

Thirty years ago several Negroes were employed during a strike of motormen and operating employes.

After the strike only one of the group was retained due to the fact that the Sreet Car Union wound not accept Negro members at that time.

The company has always employed Negro men in its track and stores departments.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLEVELAND TRANSIT HIRES TWO MOTORMEN

CLEVELAND, O., June 19—Two Negro motormen are now employed on the city's street car lines by the Cleveland Motor Company and the transportation company has announced that it will employ 11 men in all as soon as other applicants complete their physical, mental, and aptitude tests. This marks a step in the progress of the Negro in the city along the line of industrial employment. Detroit is the only other Mid-western city which employs Negroes in its transit system.

359
June 21 1941

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

GRIFFIN RETIRES FROM PULLMAN SERVICE!

359

Great Career of Self-Made Man!

Still wearing a specially-made gold watch presented to him by Lord Douglas of Hawick, an Englishman, for saving his life in a train wreck in 1897, Thomas E. Griffin, who was born in Darlington, S. C., seventy years ago, retired from the Pullman service last month after completing forty-nine years as a railroad employee.

MAY 15 1941

According to Mr. Griffin, he was on an express running from Toronto-Canada to New York City when the train ran into the Hudson River near Garrison, N. Y. On the train was Lord Douglas, who was injured the day before while horseback riding through the streets of the Canadian town. Unable to get to safety, Mr. Griffin went to the rescue of the Englishman and carried him safely to shore.

As a reward, the Englishman mailed Mr. Griffin a chain and watch, the latter bearing the following inscription, "Presented to T. E. Griffin, in recognition of his manly conduct on October 24, 1897 by Douglas Hawick".

The Englishman was at the time of the wreck riding on the sleeping car "Niobe" (the Goddess of Tears) and on one side of the watch is an etching of the Goddess.

Mr. Griffin experienced two train wrecks during his career, the other was when his train running between Syracuse and New York ran into the Mohawk River, near Fonda, N. Y. In his first wreck twenty-two persons were drowned and many injured, but there just minor injuries in the second.

MAY 1941

The former Pullman porter is cofounder of the original Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, he was on the board of directors; he was secretary of the Pullman Porters Voluntary Subscription Fund which is the forerunner of the present Pullman Porter Benefit Association, and from 1932 to 1938 he was in charge of the Pullman exhibit in Grand Central Station.

Mr. Griffin, who has been married for forty-one years, also operates penny scales throughout Harlem during his spare time. He has been in that business for over twenty years and at one time owned more than seventy-five scales.

His wife, Mrs. Nettie Y. Griffin, a former Brooklyn hairdresser, who resides with her husband in White Plains, has been highly eulogized by her husband as the guiding influence that made his career a success.—The Amsterdam News.

MAY 15 1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

White Daily Urges Use of Race Workers

MAY 24 1941

359

CLEVELAND, Ohio — A recent editorial appearing in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, leading white daily, points to the rebuilding of St. James A. M. E. Church by Negro artisans and uses this fact as an argument for their capability and a plea that they should be employed in industrial trades. The editorial read in part:

"At a time when the leaders of this race (Negro) have been trying, with the active cooperation of many others in all walks of life, to break down the notion that the Negro lacks ability in the more skilled crafts, this church has been built entirely by Negro artisans. That fact should help a great deal in eliminating opposition to the employment of Negroes in the more skilled and more lucrative industrial trades."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TWO HIRED, 3 OTHERS AWAIT APPOINTMENTS

Openings Climax Fight By City's Future Outlook League

CLEVELAND, Ohio — The running of Cleveland Street Railway cars by members of our group is a matter of fact. For a week now, two Race motormen have been engaged in operating street cars in the principal streets of Cleveland.

JUN 21 1941

Three other trainees have completed their preliminary instructions at the car barns, and are now under supervision, operating street cars. As soon as these trainees have completed their 12-day training periods, they will be given their badges and will start working regularly as motormen.

359

Others will be employed as soon as they have passed their physical, mental and mechanical aptitude tests. It is reported that 11 Race men will finally be employed as motormen. The number will no doubt be increased later on if found that the new trainees make good.

These jobs mark a new milestone in the progress of Negro Cleveland in the industrial field. Credit for this success goes to the Future Outlook League which waged the campaign with the Street Railway company for three years.

JUN 21 1941

The two men working regularly as motormen are Jerry Woods and Wilbur Headen. Both are assigned to the Woodhill barns. Absolutely no discrimination is practiced in assigning the men.

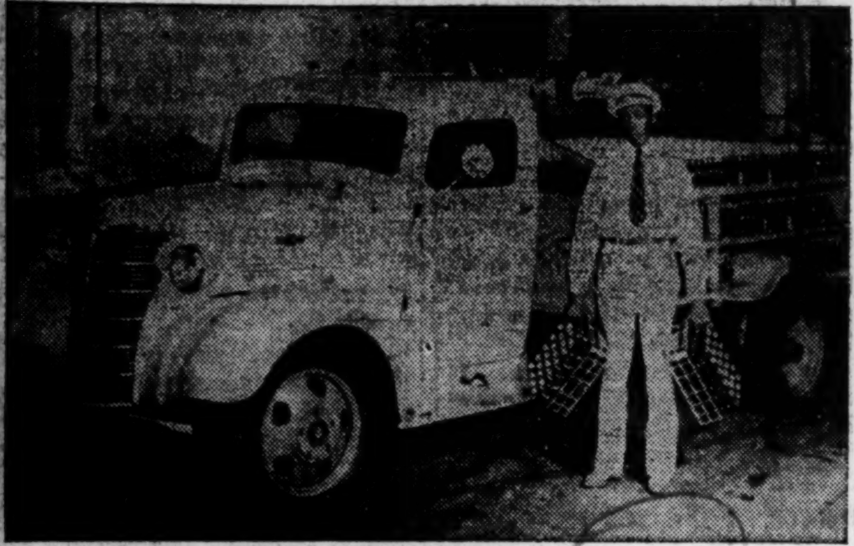
35g-1941

OKLAHOMA

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Coca Cola Places Negro on Eastside Business Route

MAY 24 1941



FRED L. BRASMAN

In cooperation with the recent program to secure more jobs for Negroes begun by the Oklahoma City Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Coca Cola Bottling Co., 1 Northwest Third street, has placed Fred Brasman, 28, in charge of a distributing route in the Eastside business area. Mr. Brasman has been employed with the Coca Cola Company for 17 years, having worked also in Dallas, Texas, and at Chickasha, Okla. Brasman assumed charge of the route Friday, May 8. Brasman is married and resides at 529 North Durland. He reported good business for his initial day.—(Box Photo).

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Employment Opportunities

JUN 14 1941

The employment of two Negro youths as salesmen by the Lee Thaggard Music Company is a step in the right direction. It means that two more Negroes have entered the field of gainful employment, and it means that Mr. Thaggard along with the other big firms, is beginning to recognize the growing demand among Negroes that they receive employment returns from investment of spending power.

Mr. Thaggard in a front page story this week, in discussing the venture, says the noticeable factor in the sales made by his Tulsa Negro salesman, is that practically all of the accounts are collectable. There is nothing strange about this, even though it explodes an oft repeated view of many white people that a white salesman can serve best in a Negro community.

Negro peace officers have exploded that false theory a long time ago. Right here in Oklahoma City, white peace officers, with warrants for Negroes, carry arrest papers in their pockets until they are almost worn out. When the warrant is handed to the Negro officer the black offender is rounded up in a few hours. This sort of thing has happened a hundred times in the criminal affairs of Oklahoma county.

Likewise a white officer would be able to detect white criminals easier than Negroes, not because he is white, but like the Negro, he knows his community and knows his folk. While the Negro officer is not a salesman, his effectiveness proves the point we wish to make, that Negroes know Negroes better than white people.

The Negro salesman then has at the outset a great advantage over the white salesman, operating in the Negro community. The Negro knows the bad risk when he shows up while the white salesman must get bitten and his company must lose by reason of the bad risks with which the white salesman becomes loaded. In fact, we believe a large part of the bad record compiled by white firms, regarding the Negro purchasing public, could be reduced to a negligible quality through the use of Negro salesmen. White firms doing business will find as does Mr. Thaggard, the major portion as such accounts will be collectable.

Such Negro salesmen would be of untold good and service to retail credit associations. Perhaps if this hint were followed up the retail credit employees would not have to burden Negro business men with daily phone calls attempting to get a line on the integrity and reliability of individual Negroes.

The placing of Negro salesmen on beverage trucks in Oklahoma City is another step in the right direction. Jay-Kola, Double Cola and Coco-Cola have Negro drivers. It means an expansion of opportunity for Negroes in the employment field, and this movement of the Negro into gainful effort should be followed until beer, laundry, bakery and dairy companies are sold the idea of employing Negro salesmen. It is true that most of these commodities are sold by white people to Negroes, but the individual business firm, indulging in this sort of program, is vitally interested in "what white business firm is going to secure the Negro trade."

Ziff and Company ,advertising representatives of Negro newspapers, published figures several years ago showing that the purchasing power of the American Negro exceeded the foreign trade America had with any foreign nation. How zealously we court the trade of England, France and many foreign nations, but the buying power of the American Negro exceeds the trade we have developed with any of these alien people. A Negro beverage driver in Tulsa doubled his sales on a route previously canvassed by a white driver. Negroes are not drinking any more soda water in Tulsa since the employment of Negro drivers. The point we wish to make is that Negroes started drinking more of the beverage sold by the Negro driver. You can figure that out. The firms not having Negro drivers lost.

A better picture of what we are talking about was drawn sometime ago to the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. This story is vouched for through the black door, but we publish it here for the common sense in the report.

According to our informant, the Independent Grocers were holding a meeting attempting to effect some curb on chain stores encroaching upon their business. A local white business man had just made an impassioned address in which he pleaded for support of neighborhood groceries owned by city taxpayers.

When he concluded, another white business man arose and made substantially this statement:

"One of the things we are overlooking is the treatment received by the Negroes of this city when they enter the stores of independent grocers. The chain store demands that every customer entering the establishment receive uniform treatment. The chain store employee knowing he is required to do this, and never knowing when someone representing the chain corporation is snooping around, gives Negroes the same service given whites. In addition to purchasing groceries for many white employers, the 20,000 Negroes of this city purchase grocery supplies for their families. We can never expect to get them into the independent grocery until we add to the price of our goods the courtesy and fair treatment they receive in chain stores."

JUN 14 1941

So there we have it again. In both instances it was a white store making the sale, but the burning issue was, which white store was going to get the Negro business? A competent Negro clerk in a store downtown would attract across the years a definite trend of Negro business, and it would all a great deal about the Negro customers frequenting that store.

JUN 14 1941

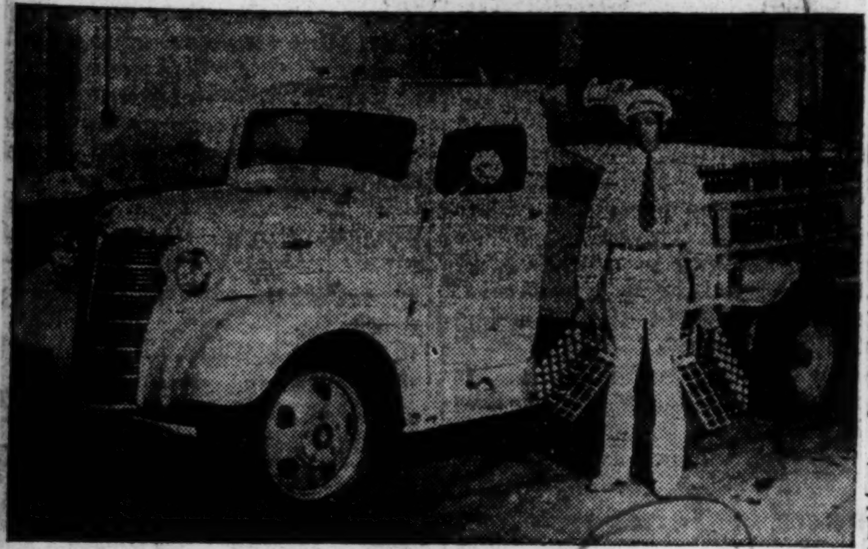
35g-1941

OKLAHOMA

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Coca Cola Places Negro on Eastside Business Route

MAY 24 1941



359

FRED L. BRASMAN

In cooperation with the recent program to secure more jobs for Negroes begun by the Oklahoma City Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Coca Cola Bottling Co., 1 Northwest Third street, has placed Fred Brasman, 28, in charge of a distributing route in the Eastside business area. Mr. Brasman has been employed with the Coca Cola Company for 17 years, having worked also in Dallas, Texas, and at Chickasha, Okla. Brasman assumed charge of the route Friday, May 8. Brasman is married and resides at 529 North Durland. He reported good business for his initial day.—(Box Photo).

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Employment Opportunities

JUN 14 1941

The employment of two Negro youths as salesmen by the Lee Thaggard Music Company is a step in the right direction. It means that two more Negroes have entered the field of gainful employment, and it means that Mr. Thaggard along with the other big firms, is beginning to recognize the growing demand among Negroes that they receive employment returns from investment of spending power.

Mr. Thaggard in a front page story this week, in discussing the venture, says the noticeable factor in the sales made by his Tulsa Negro salesman, is that practically all of the accounts are collectable. There is nothing strange about this, even though it explodes an oft repeated view of many white people that a white salesman can serve best in a Negro community.

Negro peace officers have exploded that false theory a long time ago. Right here in Oklahoma City, white peace officers, with warrants for Negroes, carry arrest papers in their pockets until they are almost worn out. When the warrant is handed to the Negro officer the black offender is rounded up in a few hours. This sort of thing has happened a hundred times in the criminal affairs of Oklahoma county.

Likewise a white officer would be able to detect white criminals easier than Negroes, not because he is white, but like the Negro, he knows his community and knows his folk. While the Negro officer is not a salesman, his effectiveness proves the point we wish to make, that Negroes know Negroes better than white people.

The Negro salesman then has at the outset a great advantage over the white salesman, operating in the Negro community. The Negro knows the bad risk when he shows up while the white salesman must get bitten and his company must lose by reason of the bad risks with which the white salesman becomes loaded. In fact, we believe a large part of the bad record compiled by white firms, regarding the Negro purchasing public, could be reduced to a negligible quality through the use of Negro salesmen. White firms doing business will find as does Mr. Thaggard, the major portion as such accounts will be collectable.

Such Negro salesmen would be of untold good and service to retail credit associations. Perhaps if this hint were followed up the retail credit employees would not have to burden Negro business men with daily phone calls attempting to get a line on the integrity and reliability of individual Negroes.

The placing of Negro salesmen on beverage trucks in Oklahoma City is another step in the right direction. Jay-Kola, Double Cola and Coco-Cola have Negro drivers. It means an expansion of opportunity for Negroes in the employment field, and this movement of the Negro into gainful effort should be followed until beer, laundry, bakery and dairy companies are sold the idea of employing Negro salesmen. It is true that most of these commodities are sold by white people to Negroes, but the individual business firm, indulging in this sort of program, is vitally interested in "what white business firm is going to secure the Negro trade."

Ziff and Company ,advertising representatives of Negro newspapers, published figures several years ago showing that the purchasing power of the American Negro exceeded the foreign trade America had with any foreign nation. How zealously we court the trade of England, France and many foreign nations, but the buying power of the American Negro exceeds the trade we have developed with any of these alien people. A Negro beverage driver in Tulsa doubled his sales on a route previously canvassed by a white driver. Negroes are not drinking any more soda water in Tulsa since the employment of Negro drivers. The point we wish to make is that Negroes started drinking more of the beverage sold by the Negro driver. You can figure that out. The firms not having Negro drivers lost.

A better picture of what we are talking about was drawn sometime ago to the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. This story is vouched for through the black door, but we publish it here for the common sense in the report.

According to our informant, the Independent Grocers were holding a meeting attempting to effect some curb on chain stores encroaching upon their business. A local white business man had just made an impassioned address in which he pleaded for support of neighborhood groceries owned by city taxpayers.

When he concluded, another white business man arose and made substantially this statement:

"One of the things we are overlooking is the treatment received by the Negroes of this city when they enter the stores of independent grocers. The chain store demands that every customer entering the establishment receive uniform treatment. The chain store employee knowing he is required to do this, and never knowing when someone representing the chain corporation is snooping around, gives Negroes the same service given whites. In addition to purchasing groceries for many white employers, the 20,000 Negroes of this city purchase grocery supplies for their families. We can never expect to get them into the independent grocery until we add to the price of our goods the courtesy and fair treatment they receive in chain stores."

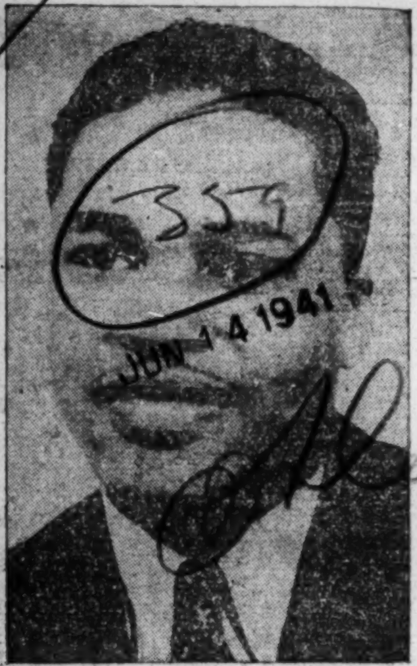
JUN 14 1941

So there we have it again. In both instances it was a white store making the sale, but the burning issue was, which white store was going to get the Negro business? A competent Negro clerk in a store downtown would attract across the years a definite trend of Negro business, and it would all a great deal about the Negro customers frequenting that store.

JUN 14 1941

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Two Salesmen For Lee Thaggard Music Co.



JOE "LOUIS" GRIMMITT
Oklahoma City

HERMAN GRIFFIN
Tula

JUN 14 1941

353

Impressed with the phenomenal sales made by Herman Griffin employed sometime ago in his Tulsa establishment, Lee Thaggard, Oklahoma City, employed last week another Negro salesman, Joe "Louis" Grimmitt, who has started canvassing the Oklahoma City trade territory.

Young Grimmitt, who is only 23 years old, is a product of Manual Training high school, Muskogee. He spent one year at Langston university. He resides now at 500 North High.

"I see no reason why young Griffin cannot do well in this territory," said Mr. Thaggard in discussing this new venture in salesmanship. "The thing that has impressed me with the sales made by Mr. Griffin in Tulsa is that all of his sales are collectable, and that he has proven honest and reliable in all of his dealings.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Let's Take Advantage of This Opportunity

Placement of a Negro youth as salesman for an Oklahoma City music firm carries with it a challenge to the Negro buying public. If this young man, Joseph "Louis" Grimmitt, is to make good, Negroes will be responsible for his success.

If there is a church in the immediate vicinity desirous of purchasing a pipe organ or other musical instruments, or if there is some person who as an individual is desirous of adding a radio, piano or stringed instrument to the comforts of the home, effort should be made to get in touch with young Grimmett.

We want it thoroughly understood that the Black Dispatch is not attempting to promote the particular music house in question, or young Grimmitt as an individual. What we have in mind is the fact that a young Negro has entered a new field of employment and that it is up to the Negroes of this area to support him, and all other young folk of our group who are exploiting foreign fields.

What we have said here applies equally as well to the drivers who have been given positions with the bottling firms.

JUN 21 1941

353

Another beverage company is arranging this week to put on a Negro driver, and if just at this time, Negroes will concentrate on backing all of these young men it will mean in the end that other commodity distributors will see the light and do likewise. This will mean real advancement in the field of gainful employment.

White patrons in the area served by one of the Negro drivers, have, according to company officials, already stating that the Negro driver is giving them better service than the white driver. It appears that the white driver came in and dumped his soda water cases on the floor and departed. The Negro driver has changed all this. He comes in and drains the boxes of surplus water, places the new delivery on the bottom and the iced bottles on top—just a little service the other fellow was not giving.

But finally, and in the last analysis, it is the buying public who must adopt the slogan, "Don't drink where you can't work." Negroes must concentrate on doing two things, buying the soda water from the Negro driver, and then paying the Negro driver. The black salesman cannot make good with credit customers who do not pay.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Pepsi-Cola Offers a Real Challenge

(An Editorial)

The appearance on Oklahoma City streets this week of a Pepsi-Cola truck, driven by a Negro, has a deal of significance about which we want to talk. It represents one of the most challenging experiences the employment division of the city Negro Chamber of Commerce has had in developing its 1941 job program.

Mr. P. H. James, manufacturer of Jay-Kola, has added Pepsi-Cola to his sales list and while continuing to sell his delicious beverage, will offer Pepsi-Cola also to his customers. Pepsi-Cola will continue to be bottled only, as in the past, by the Hall Beverage Co., but will be distributed by Mr. James and Mr. Joseph Fisher.

And this is the surprising and thrilling experience that has come to the Oklahoma City Negro Chamber of Commerce. The employment division intended its fishing activity to hook a few jobs, but the big "fish story" they may now relate about their activity develops in the fact that they went fishing for mere jobs and "caught a business."

Not for one minute would the Black Dispatch discount the fine reaction of the firms having given employment to Negroes as drivers. This is a definite and worthwhile gain. Mr. Fisher is not an employee of the Pepsi-Cola Company, but is a partner of Mr. James, who is a business man with a distributor's franchise. This status gives Mr. Fisher opportunity to make far more money through the sale of Pepsi-Cola than he possibly could as a mere driver.

On the other hand, the responsibility of Mr. James and Mr. Fisher increases with the opportunity to make larger profits. It was necessary for them to make investments in hard cash in order to secure this franchise. Their investment of hard earned dollars in Pepsi-Cola is also a challenge to the summer-thirst, beverage buying public. It will be necessary for Mr. Fisher to secure the maximum amount of Pepsi-Cola sales if he is to realize the actual potential in the territory allotted to him.

The Black Dispatch is hoping that the 20,000 Negroes of the city will rally to this new business partnership of Messrs. James and Fisher with Pepsi-Cola. If it is successful it means that in increasingly larger numbers beverage firms doing business in Negro areas will see the wisdom of offering this type of opportunity to Negro citizens having a business turn of mind. The march towards jobs has in this instance been a march towards the independent status of a business man.

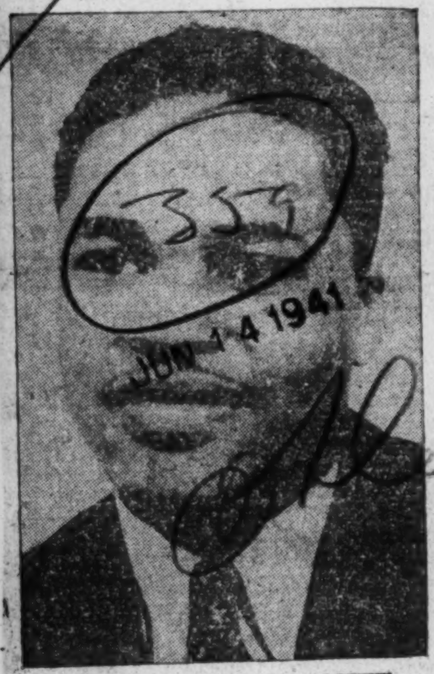
Hats off to the Negro Chamber of Commerce and hats off also to Pepsi-Cola. Let the job quest continue, but let us not forget that the best argument that can be made to other firms who do not as yet employ Negroes, is the record made by Negroes in support of those friendly white firms who have already joined in the Chamber's job program. Pepsi-Cola is one of those firms.

JUL 5 1941

359

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Two Salesmen For Lee Thaggard Music Co.


353
JUN 14 1941

JOE "LOUIS" GRIMMITT
Oklahoma City

JUN 14 1941

HERMAN GRIFFIN
Tula

Impressed with the phenomenal sales made by Herman Griffin employed sometime ago in his Tulsa establishment, Lee Thaggard, Oklahoma City, employed last week another Negro salesman, Joe "Louis" Grimmitt, who has started canvassing the Oklahoma City trade territory.

Young Grimmitt, who is only 23 years old, is a product of Manual Training high school, Muskogee. He spent one year at Langston university. He resides now at 500 North High.

"I see no reason why young Griffin cannot do well in this territory," said Mr. Thaggard in discussing his new venture in salesmanship. "The thing that has impressed me with the sales made by Mr. Griffin in Tulsa is that all of his sales are collectable, and that he has proven honest and reliable in all of his dealings.

JUN 14 1941

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Let's Take Advantage of This Opportunity

Placement of a Negro youth as salesman for an Oklahoma City music firm carries with it a challenge to the Negro buying public. If this young man, Joseph "Louis" Grimmitt, is to make good, Negroes will be responsible for his success.

If there is a church in the immediate vicinity desirous of purchasing a pipe organ or other musical instruments, or if there is some person who as an individual is desirous of adding a radio, piano or stringed instrument to the comforts of the home, effort should be made to get in touch with young Grimmett.

We want it thoroughly understood that the Black Dispatch is not attempting to promote the particular music house in question, or young Grimmitt as an individual. What we have in mind is the fact that a young Negro has entered a new field of employment and that it is up to the Negroes of this area to support him, and all other young folk of our group who are exploiting foreign fields.

What we have said here applies equally as well to the drivers who have been given positions with the bottling firms.

JUN 21 1941
353

Another beverage company is arranging this week to put on a Negro driver, and if just at this time, Negroes will concentrate on backing all of these young men it will mean in the end that other commodity distributors will see the light and do likewise. This will mean real advancement in the field of gainful employment.

White patrons in the area served by one of the Negro drivers, have, according to company officials, already stating that the Negro driver is giving them better service than the white driver. It appears that the white driver came in and dumped his soda water cases on the floor and departed. The Negro driver has changed all this. He comes in and drains the boxes of surplus water, places the new delivery on the bottom and the iced bottles on top—just a little service the other fellow was not giving.

But finally, and in the last analysis, it is the buying public who must adopt the slogan, "Don't drink where you can't work." Negroes must concentrate on doing two things, buying the soda water from the Negro driver, and then paying the Negro driver. The black salesman cannot make good with credit customers who do not pay.

JUN 21

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Pepsi-Cola Offers a Real Challenge

(An Editorial)

The appearance on Oklahoma City streets this week of a Pepsi-Cola truck, driven by a Negro, has a deal of significance about which we want to talk. It represents one of the most challenging experiences the employment division of the city Negro Chamber of Commerce has had in developing its 1941 job program.

Mr. P. H. James, manufacturer of Jay-Kola, has added Pepsi-Cola to his sales list and while continuing to sell his delicious beverage, will offer Pepsi-Cola also to his customers. Pepsi-Cola will continue to be bottled only, as in the past, by the Hall Beverage Co., but will be distributed by Mr. James and Mr. Joseph Fisher.

And this is the surprising and thrilling experience that has come to the Oklahoma City Negro Chamber of Commerce. The employment division intended its fishing activity to hook a few jobs, but the big "fish story" they may now relate about their activity develops in the fact that they went fishing for mere jobs and "caught a business."

Not for one minute would the Black Dispatch discount the fine reaction of the firms having given employment to Negroes as drivers. This is a definite and worthwhile gain. Mr. Fisher is not [illegible] employee of the Pepsi-Cola Company, but is a partner of Mr. James, who is a business man with a distributor's franchise. This status gives Mr. Fisher opportunity to make far more money through the sale of Pepsi-Cola than he possibly could as a mere driver.

On the other hand, the responsibility of Mr. James and Mr. Fisher increases with the opportunity to make larger profits. It was necessary for them to make investments in hard cash in order to secure this franchise. Their investment of hard earned dollars in Pepsi-Cola is also a challenge to the summer-thirst, beverage buying public. It will be necessary for Mr. Fisher to secure the maximum amount of Pepsi-Cola sales if he is to realize the actual potential in the territory allotted to him.

The Black Dispatch is hoping that the 20,000 Negroes of the city will rally to this new business partnership of Messrs. James and Fisher with Pepsi-Cola. If it is successful it means that in increasingly larger numbers beverage firms doing business in Negro areas will see the wisdom of offering this type of opportunity to Negro citizens having a business turn of mind. The march towards jobs has in this instance been a march towards the independent status of a business man.

Hats off to the Negro Chamber of Commerce and hats off also to Pepsi-Cola. Let the job quest continue, but let us not forget that the best argument that can be made to other firms who do [illegible] as yet employ Negroes, is the record made by Negroes in support of those friendly white firms who have already joined in the Chamber's job program. Pepsi-Cola is one of those firms.

JUL 5 1941
359

OREGON

35g-1941

Portland Gets Negro Postman; 1st In 25 Years

MAR 9 1941

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 6—(ANP)—Richard Bogle was appointed a substitute letter-carrier here last week. It is believed that his appointment marks the first time in 25 years that a Negro has been appointed to such a post here.

35 g - Oregon

35g-1941

Black Dispatch

klahoma City, Okla

PANAMA CANAL ZONE

35 g - Panama Canal Zone

Jobs Open In Canal Zone

APR 5 - 1941

WASHINGTON — Jobs for college trained men with restaurant experinece are available in the Panama Canal Zone officials this week informed Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant in the recently organized Office of Production Management.

APR 5 - 1941

Appointed as stewards with the Panama canal in the Canl Zone, the men will receive an entrance salary of $1,800 per year and two months annual vacation with pay. They will also be covered in the agency's retirement plan.

35g-1941 PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COURIER'S PHILLY NEWSMEN UNCOVER 'STORY OF THE YEAR'

Tour U. S. Quartermaster's Depot and Discover Irving T. Nutt Has Final Say-so On Spending of $500,000,000—Assistants Also Colored.

JAN 25 1941

By JAMES ~~M. REID~~

PHILADEL~~PHIA, Jan. 23~~—A tour of the U. S. Quartermaster's Depot at 21st and Johnson streets revealed the unusual fact that a man of color holds one of the highest civilian positions and is directly in charge of the most important department at the depot.

Irving T. Nutt, administrative assistant, in charge of the Fiscal Division, supervises the expenditure of all funds appropriated by Congress for use of the local depot in clothing Uncle Sam's army and CCC boys. There will have passed through his hands by February 15 over $500,000,000 spent since the beginning of this fiscal year last June.

Mr. Nutt's department must approve every cent spent for a pin, a machine, a button or a building. All governmental contracts to private industry are cleared through his office and all claims for or against the government arising through these transactions must have his decision and the only appeal from his ruling is to the Comptroller General of the United States at Washington.

TWO RACE ASSISTANTS

The Fiscal Division has three branches divided in twelve sections. The administrative branch handles all pay vouchers, travel expense accounts and investigate, estimate and report on all contracts.

The accounting branch includes the allotment, manufacturers' accounts, commercial accounts and adjustments sections. The claims branch has two sections.

The Fiscal Division has 120 employees as clerks, stenographers, typists, auditors and accountants. Of these men and women only Mr. Nutt and two assistants are colored.

Chief assistant to Mr. Nutt is A. Clarence Monroe, principal clerk. He is rated the best-informed man on fiscal procedure and authority on decisions of the Comptroller General on fiscal matters. Holding the other position is Elmer A. Congo, clerk.

NO DISCRIMINATION

So thorough has been the work of these men that the Quartermaster General rates the Philadelphia fiscal division the best of any Quartermaster Depot.

The local depot buys every piece of clothing, men's furnishings, materials used for flags, buntings, insignias, buttons, badges, beddings and musical instruments used by the U.S. Army. Part of the clothings are manufactured at the depot but the volume is too large to be handled here and it is let to private manufacturers on specifications and materials furnished by the Philadelphia depot.

The post is under the direction of Brigadier General McCain, a Mississippian by birth, but according to all information he is an absolutely fair and impartial administrator.

When questioned on the extent of colored employment at the army post, General McCain said: "We have no discrimination on this reservation. All the civilian employees are selected from the civil service list and we accept anyone sent to us. We don't ask a man his color or race but only that he be capable of doing the work.

"You will find on making a tour of the grounds that Negroes are employed all over the place. In some sections like the power machine operators you will find relatively few Negro women in proportion and that is because the local clothing industry is dominated by Jewish and Italian women," concluded the General.

FIND MANY RACE WORKERS

Placing an Army car and the services of Lieutenant Colonel Brady, Army Intelligence Officer, at our disposal, we began a tour of the 78-acre plant, visiting the many office buildings, the huge warehouses and large storerooms.

The military industrial plant has 8,700 employees and many hundreds of them are Negroes. Exact figure could not be given because the employees' cards are not broken down in race categories.

By far the largest numbers, and in fact, the majority of the warehouse employees are colored. They are laborers, truckers, checkers, timekeepers and foremen. Next in numbers are found in the Utility Division, which includes the custodial services and repair and maintenance section.

This by no means exhausted the list. We found large numbers of colored workers in the Reclamation Division, where every thread of scrap material from the shops and private contractors are sorted, baled and made into by-products. In the Final Inspection Department were men and women passing on every garment made to be worn by the soldiers. If they reject a garment it is sent back to the manufacturer.

FOUR COLORED GUARDS

A visit to the Packing Division, the shipping department, box factory, the cloth inspection department, the cafeteria and the guards, proved that no discrimination existed as to employment opportunities.

There are four colored members of the guards. They are: Arthur G. Thomas, 1607 N. 21st street, a student at Temple University; Lewis A. Brown, 5722 Harmer street; Julius C. Williams, 5517 Spring street, and Harold C. Newsome, 4612 Kingsessing avenue.

General McCain was high in his praise of the "Big Four." They are: Mr. Nutt, Mr. Monroe, Mr. Congo and Richard Hill Jr.

Mr. Hill is property clerk, in charge of all property transaction with other depots and private industry. He has been at the depot for twenty years, and is prominent in church, fraternal and club circles, being vestryman at St. Simons, a member of the Masons and Legion post. Hill resides at 1260 S. 22nd street.

Mr. Nutt has been in service for 24 years. He started as a clerk and rose through promotions to have charge of the general accounting offices. He was formerly president of the Camden Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., and served two terms on the Camden Board of Education. Nutt moved to Philadelphia six years ago and lives at 3858 N. 16th street.

Mr. Monroe resides at 304 N. 41st street. He is a member of the Pyramid Club, the Choristers and the Masonics, and has seen 24 years service at the Quartermasters Depot.

Mr. Congo lives in Haddonfield, N.J., and is trustee and clerk of the Kaighn Avenue Baptist Church. He was a commissioned officer during the World War, and has seen 21 years' service at the depot. Mr. Congo was for 20 years in the Administrative Division, and only last year was promoted to a higher position in the Fiscal Division.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Colored Employés Kept In Worst Paid Positions By Federal Government

359

NOV 1 1941

IT IS ESTIMATED that 5,000 of the 35,000 employees of the Philadelphia Navy Yard are colored. This is a very fair percentage. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these men are the poorest paid of the workers in this government establishment.

It's nothing new for a skilled colored workman to train a green recruit and then have this man elevated to a position of greater responsibility with the resultant increase in pay, while the man who trained him remains as a worker in the ranks so that he may train other bosses.

It is no secret that President Roosevelt's executive order is being observed in the letter, but utterly ignored in the spirit in Federal bureaus. It is common knowledge that a skilled colored workman, entering the local Navy Yard for the first time, starts in most instances as a "classified laborer" and while he may rise from third class to first class, is never allowed to become a foreman.

Colored employes are loath to discuss these matters; at least, they do not want to be quoted. After all, they are employed, which is better than being unemployed. But something ought to be done, some intelligent protest ought to be made to the responsible authorities, in an effort to improve the economic status of skilled colored men at the Navy Yard.

A similar condition obtains in the local Post Office department. College trained postal employes find the door to promotion firmly shut in their faces, because of their color. Here again the victims remain quiet, for the most part. Very few risk the loss of their job to enter any serious protest. At the 30th Street Post Office station, where hundreds of colored men are employed, there is not ONE colored foreman.

NOV 1 1941

Conditions like these must be changed. The remedy is two-fold: Those most intimately concerned must themselves have sufficient courage to do something about it; and secondly, the public must take an interest in these situations. "Silence gives consent," and our silence has been interpreted as satisfaction with an unfair condition.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Honor Worker After 50 Years at Wanamaker's

NOV 9 1941

PHILADELPHIA.

In recognition of being the first of his race to serve fifty years in the Wanamaker stores in Philadelphia, Major J. Harry Scroggins of 27 S. Ruby Street, was given a 14-carat gold watch by Rodman Barker, vice-president, and an initialed gold ring by the elevator operators on Tuesday.

Born in Alexandria, Va., Major Scroggins came to Philadelphia and obtained a job in the store at the age of 20. He organized the Robert Creditt Ogden Association which established among the employees a band, a chorus, and an athletic association.

Has Pleasing Personality

Although he is inclined to be serious-minded, he possesses a pleasing personality and a sense of humor.

He can relate many stories of the Spanish-American and World Wars which impress one with the importance of unity between all for defense of democracy.

"Early to bed and early to rise," no smoking or intoxicating drinks is his formula for a long and vigorous life. His favorite pastime is walking, and he thinks nothing of covering from ten to seventeen miles on a Sunday morning.

NOV 9 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

1st Messenger Named for New Telegraph Office

DEC 13 1941

20

PHILADELPHIA

Robert Boulden of 1904 W. Columbia Avenue was appointed as the city's first colored telegraph messenger and Mayor Bernard Samuel will send the first message Sunday from the new all-colored branch office of the Postal Telegraph Company at Twenty-first and Columbia Avenue.

The mayor will speak at a mass meeting in McDowell Church at 3 p.m., Sunday, in connection with the official opening of the office, in which twenty-five organizations will participate.

Ministers Pledge Support

The Baptist Ministers' Conference of Philadelphia and vicinity passed a resolution on Monday endorsing the company's action in establishing the office and pledging support.

DEC 13 1941

A similar action and pledg was made by the Methodist M isters' Conference during a m ing at Allen Church, Seventee and Bainbridge Streets. It announced that four messenge boys and two women clerks will be hired at the new office. The group will be trained by Postal officials.

SOUTH CAROLINA

35g-1941

35g - S.C.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
February 18, 1941

6 JOBS OPEN FOR GIRLS

NYA Has Openings at Fort in Clerical Work

Harry G. Boyte, area supervisor for the National Youth Administration, announced yesterday that six vacancies exist at Fort Moultrie for white girls having a high school education. All jobs will be clerical.

It is not necessary that all know how to type, Mr. Boyte said. It is necessary, however, that the girls be unmarried and unemployed.

At present there are approximately 120 NYA workers at the fort. Fifty are white girls. The remainder are negro boys and girls. Work done by the NYA group at Fort Moultrie is considered part of the national defense program because for every position given an unemployed youth, a soldier is released for practical drill.

35g-1941

TENNESSEE

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
August 3, 1941

Boys Under 21 Register Monday For Odd Jobs

9 Centers Designated; Move Aimed as Curb On Delinquency

More than 400 boys coming under Nashville's crime prevention program are scheduled to register Monday at the nine registration centers set up to furnish boys under 21 years old with part-time jobs.

Patrolman Ed Bennett, police commissioner, said that persons wanting boys to do odd jobs should call 5-4782.

"Judging from the number of persons who have already called wanting boys," he said, "we should have no trouble in finding enough work to keep all of the boys busy."

REGISTRATION POINTS

Registration centers will be established at St. Luke's Settlement House, Methodist Centenary, Wesley House, Neighborhood House, [illegible] Day Home, Martha O'Bryan Settlement House, for white youths, and for the colored youths Bethlehem Center, Fisk Center and the Negro Youth Center.

"The Women's Volunteer Workers have made arrangements to have one of their workers to take calls for jobs between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon," Bennett said.

The movement to find employment for boys coming under the crime prevention program began several weeks ago, and has moved along at a swift pace climaxing with the establishment of the registration centers, officials pointed out.

AIMS OF DRIVE

The purpose of the Youth Employment Bureau is to reduce the portion of the city's juvenile delinquency which may be due to reasons, lack of spending money and the "absence of socially-satisfactory affectional ties among the youth," officials of the movement said.

Registration is open to any youth under 21 years of age, white or colored, but is designed primarily for the boys who, because of economic distress with their families, are likely to become delinquents.

"We will maintain strict adherence to the child labor laws," Bennett said, "and the only jobs we are interested in are odd jobs and after school jobs which will not interfere with the school attendance of the boys."

TO CLASSIFY BOYS

Following the registration Monday each youth will be classified according to his need and the card filed at a central registration bureau. A plan of rotation will be followed in notifying registration centers in order that jobs may be distributed evenly.

When the boys return from a job, Bennett said, their employer will be called to testify as to whether or not the job was done to his satisfaction. Reaction of the youth will be used for reports to the central bureau, he said.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Servants Leave City for Cotton Fields in South

OCT 12 1941

MEMPHIS, Oct. 9—(ANP) — That the shortage of maids, cooks and other domestic help is being felt in more Memphis homes than one is evidenced by the number of calls being recived by employment agencies here. Domestic workers are leaving the city for the "easy pickings" in the cotton fields. Employment agency officials say that the agency has approximately 400 unfilled orders on hand.

From the farm labor division of the Memphis Public Employment center comes reports that between 11,000 and 12,000 prospective pickers are crowding into the cotton fields daily. The reason for this exodus is that pickers are making about $1.50 per 100 pounds this season, which means that a good picker might average as high as $4 a day. One worker reported that he had picked 400 pounds to chalk up $6 for a day. An average picker picks 200 pounds a day and that means $3 in his pocket or $36,000 in 12,000 pockets, most of which finds its way back to Memphis. Not only is Memphis losing its domestic help, but cities of Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi are feeling the losses in help due to the general exodus to "easy pickings" in cotton fields in these localities.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

City Workers Turn To Cotton Fields

OCT 6 1941

MEMPHIS—(ANP)—That the shortage of maids, cooks and other domestic help is being felt in more Memphis homes than one is evidenced by the number of calls being received by employment agencies here. Domestic workers are leaving the city for the "easy pickin's" in the cotton fields. Employment agency officials say that the agency has approximately 400 unfilled orders on hand.

OCT 6 1941

From the farm labor division of Memphis Public Employment center comes reports that between 11,000 and 12,000 prospective pickers are crowding into the cotton fields daily. The reason for this exodus is that pickers are making about $1.50 per 100 pounds this season, which means that a good picker might average as high as $4 a day.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RED CAPS LOSE CASE ON APPEAL

MAR 15 1941

3 5 g

MAR 15 1941

DALLAS, Texas, March 13.—The action of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in reversing a decision in the Dallas Red Caps' case may have serious effect on the working agreement of station porters throughout the nation unless it is reversed by the Supreme Court.

In a decision rendered last week the court ruled that the Union Terminal Company was not liable for $78,000 in back pay to the porters under a verdict of District Judge William Atwell, given last year.

The Red Caps brought their case for back wages under the Wage and Hours Act, claiming that tips received should not be applied toward the minimum salary guaranteed under the act. Judge Atwell upheld their contention and assessed $78,000 in damages against the company. The Circuit Court has remanded the case back to the District Court for judgment in conformity with its decision.

ADOPTS NEW SYSTEM

When the Wage and Hour Law went into effect the terminal company required the station porters to turn in a record of their tips and if these exceeded the guaranteed minimum wages the company did not pay any salary, but where the tips did not aggregate the wage level then the company would make up the difference.

MAR 15 1941

Railroad terminal companies throughout the nation have changed their system and are now requiring porters to charge 10 cents a parcel on all baggage handled. This money is turned into the company and the Red Caps are paid wages. The new ruling will force the companies to readopt the old system and the porters will not receive any benefits under the Wage and Hours Law.

---

37 Hurt When Crowded Bus and Passenger Train Collide at Crossing

Most of Injured Are Negroes

3 5 g

Thirty-seven persons escaped death but not injury Saturday when a crowded Houston Electric company bus and an inbound Missouri Pacific passenger train collided at Nance and Mary.

Most of the passengers on the bus were negroes. Probably the most seriously injured were two white men, B. F. Priery, 24, driver of the bus, and Marion K. Womack, 1114 Bagby.

SEP 28 1941

Both the driver and Mr. Womack were admitted for treatment at St. Joseph's infirmary. The bus driver suffered a serious head injury and a broken shoulder and Mr. Womack suffered serious cuts and bruises.

Treated At St. Joseph's

The accident happened at 8:05 a. m. A week ago at the same crossing a fire truck and a train collided and four firemen were injured.

All of the injured were treated at St. Joseph's infirmary. All available ambulances in the city were used to take the injured from the scene of the accident.

Hospital records showed that 22 negroes were treated. Fifteen others were taken to the hospital. The 22 were:

Houston Post
Houston, Tex.

El[illegible] 622 Hill[illegible] Thomas, 57, 3209 Williamson; Helen Leroy, 18, 3310 Bagby; Emma Dickson, 53, 3[illegible]; P[illegible] Todd, 24, 3018 Hare; Laura Mae Wicks, 26, 1710 Jensen; Arnold Taylor, 80, 3310 Clinton; Ethel Johnson, 24, 811 Bringhurst; Katherine Denning, 28 1414 Mason.

Ruby Lee Barber, 26, 3507 Green;

Two White Men Badly Battered

Annie Mae Bowers, 38, 3801 Providence; Lillian Peters, 26, 40 Shilo; Will Foran, 38, 3406 Buck; Lenore Kirkw[illegible], 32, 2714 Nance; Matilda McWilliams, [illegible], 817 Schwartz; Edna Jackson, 36, 3612 Hare; Mary Lee Thompson, 30, 3106 Gillespie; Al Taylor, 37, 804 Meadow; Maud Jones, 36, 2714 Fothwell; W. M. Lackey, 40, 712 Meadow, and Frankie Lee ~~Barlow, 23, 2707~~ Rothwell.

SEP 28 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Texas Theatre Gets Colored Manager

OCT 4 1941

HOUSTON, Texas —(ANP)— Hermon Rochelle, 22-year-old Houston youth, has been named manager of the Holman Theatre here, thus becoming the first colored manager of any of the five Lewis theatres in the city which caters to all-colored audiences.

OCT 4 1941

There are nine theatres in all-colored sections of the city, and prior to Rochelle's appointment, only one, the Dowling, employed a colored manager.

OCT 4 1941

35g-1941 TEXAS

Black. Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

College Girl Is Manager of Movie House In Texas

MAR 8 1941

MARSHALL, Tex. (ANP) — Sucessfully operating a large movie theatre in a college town is one of the many accomplishments of pretty Miss Blanche Louise Preston, 23. She is manager of the Harlem theatre, only colored theatre in the town.

Coming to Marshall from Texarkana one year ago she had remarkable success with the theatre, having played most of the colored pictures to crowded houses besides giving them some of the outstanding pictures of the year. She has strong competition as one of the larger white houses gives over to colored people the entire balocny.

Peculiarly enough, she contends that the upper class Negroes of the town patronize the white theatre while the people lower down in the social scale patronize her theatre.

MAR 8 1941

Like many Negro businesses in the South, the theatre is adjacent to the white business district and has been opened for the past four years. It conaains over 300 seats and is filled daily. Biggest crowds attend the latter part of the week when residents from the rural districts are in town. Standing room only is sold frequently.

"My hardest problem is to maintain discipline", Miss Preston said. She has her own way of subduing noisy patrons and has never had to have a policeman in the place. "In checking our boisterous patrons, I have found they are not noisy in the balconies of the white theatres", she concluded.

She passes on bookings for three shows operated by the proprietor in other towns. She endeavors to show all the leading attractions of colored producing companies.

Miss Preston was born in Marshall but migrated to Texarkana with her family at an early age. Finishing high school in that city she entered the show business as cashier and assistant to the manager of a theatre there. After six months in the business she was called to Marshall to operate the Harlem.

MAR 8 1941

She has attended Prairie View college and is now attending Wiley from which she graduates this year as an honor student. In 1939 she won the "Miss Texarkana" title and was sent to the Dallas fair. She attributes her success in filling the show to her constant advertising in the colored

---

Globe and Independent
Nashville. Tenn.

College Girl Tells Unique Story Of How She Runs "Movie" in Texas

Has Success Without Patronage of "Upper Class Negroes" Who Prefer Balcony of White Theatres

MAR 14 1941

MARSHALL, TEXAS, March 6—(ANP)—Successfully operating a large movie theatre in a college town is one of the many accomplishments of pretty Miss Blanche Louise Preston, 23. She is manager of the Harlem theatre, only all-colored theatre in the town.

Coming to Marshall from Texarkana one year ago she has had remarkable success with the theatre, having played most of the colored pictures to crowded houses besides giving them some of the outstanding pictures of the year. She has strong competition as one of the larger white houses gives over to colored people the entire balcony.

Peculiarly enough, she contends that the upper class Negroes of the town patronize the white theatre while the people of lower down in the social scale patronize her theatre.

MAR 14 1941

Like many Negro businesses in the South, the theatre is adjacent to the white business district and has been opened for the past four years. It contains over 300 seats and is filled daily. Biggest crowds attend the latter part of the week when residents from the rural districts are in town. Standing room only is sold frequently.

"My hardest problem is to maintain discipline," Miss Preston said. She has her own way of subduing noisy patrons and has never had to call a policeman in the place. "In checking our boisterous patrons, I have found they are not noisy in the balconies in the white theatres," she concluded.

MAR 14 1941

She passes on bookings for three shows operated by the proprietor in other towns. She endeavors to show all the leading attractions of the colored producing companies.

Miss Preston was born in Marshall but migrated to Texarkana with her family at an early age. Finishing high school in that city she entered the show business as cashier and assistant to the manager of a theatre. After six months in the business she was called to Marshall to operate the Harlem.

She has attended Prairie View College and is now attending Wiley from which she graduates this year as an honor student. In 1939 she won the "Miss Texarkana" title and was sent to the Dallas fair. She attributes her success in filling the show to her constant advertising in the colored papers.

35g-1941

VIRGINIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Sexton Honored By White Congregation

JAN 30 1941

RICHMOND, Va.—(ANP)—The face of a man who finds joy in his work was that of Henry Davis, sexton of Monument Methodist church, when he was presented to the congregation last Sunday morning in recognition of his 25 years of service to the church. Following the services Davis stood at the front of the church auditorium and was presented a check by the official board.

It was in 1915 when the sexton entered the service of the church. When the call for service to his country came, he responded in 1917 and went to France with the AEF. In 1926 the name of Henry Davis was cast in bronze with many others on the honor roll of the chur

---

WHITE CHURCH HONORS SEXTON

FEB 1 1941

Courier

Pittsburgh Pa

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 30. (ANP)—The face of a man who finds joy in his work was that of Henry Davis, sexton of Monument Methodist church, when he was presented to the congregation last Sunday morning in recognition of his 25 years of service to the church. Following the services Davis stood at the front of the church auditorium and was presented a check by the official board.

It was in 1915 when the sexton entered the service of the church. When the call for service to his country came, he responded in 1917 and went to France with the AEF, where he remained with the Fourth Veterinary Corps until the signing of the Armistice. He returned then to Richmond and to his job.

In 1926 the name of Henry Davis was cast in bronze with many others on the honor roll of the church, and this tablet hangs today in the front vestibule of the church.

Strangely enough he came nearer losing his life in the discharge of his duties as sexton some months ago than he ever did in his experience in France. Performing some duty connected with his work he was the victim of a hold-up. He received a severe blow on his head which incapacitated him for many weeks.

Davis finds great satisfaction in receiving visitors and showing them the church building. A spirit of reverence seems to pervade his work in caring for the church.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Va. Cigar Workers Win Pay Increases

Va

JUL 19 1941

RICHMOND, Va.—After a three-week wage increase fight between the members of the Cigar Makers International Union of America and the P. Lorrilard and Company, the workers won a five percent wage addition for the next 18 months.

Agreement signing officials for the company were executive vice presidents and secretaries. Workers who participated in the signing of the agreement were officials of Local No. 178. A special exercise for the event was held at the white high school auditorium.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk. Virginia

Consider Problem Of Skilled Labor

JAN 25 1941

Interracial Group Would Open Jobs In Race's Defense

RICHMOND, Va. — The executive committee of the Virginia Commission on Interracial Cooperation at a meeting here considered the problem of the employment of Negro skilled labor on national defense construction projects and named committees to put into effect the following program of action:

1. To discover and organize all available Negro workmen qualified in the skilled trades.
2. To create public sentiment through publicity and otherwise for using these skilled workers in the present national defense construction program.
3. To contact union officials with a view to securing their consent to admit Negro skilled workers in the same unions or in separate ones.

The executive committee also went on record as being deeply interested in a proposed statewide conference of industrialists, contractors and other employers of labor, to be called by the Governor, to consider the future as well as the present of Negro labor in Virginia, and especially the problem of apprenticeships.

TO ARRANGE MEETING

JAN 25 1941

Cooperation of the churches will be sought, and the committee on work among the churches, headed by Dr. Churchill Gibson and Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, was asked to arrange for a statewide conference of different denominations to be held in the early spring.

Members of the committee present were: Tennant Bryan, chairman; R. O. Purvis, Gordon B. Hancock, William J. Clark, J. M. Ellison, T. C. Walker, Wiley A. Hall, Theodore F. Adams, W. T. Johnson, Joseph T. Hill, Paul D. Williams, John P. Williams, Egbert G. Leigh, Garnett Ryland, W. N. Ridley, L. S. McElroy, Vincent C. Franks, A. G. Richardson, Henry J. McGuinn, Welton H. Henderson and L. R. Reynolds, state director of the commission.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Ten Salesgirls Hired In Five And Ten Stores

By S. A. HAYNES

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—A significant economic victory was achieved here last Friday, when, for the first time in the history of this shipyard center, colored sales girls were given employment in a chain store.

Hundreds of weekend shoppers gazed in joyous wonderment when they walked into the Dixie 5 cents to $1.00 Store on Jefferson Avenue and found the girls in full charge of all the counters on the first floor.

They were placed through the joint efforts of the Newport News Youth Council and the faculty of Huntington High School. The Council, recently reorganized, previously conferred with Jefferson Avenue merchants on the advisability of giving employment to colored girls. Representative civic leaders and pastors collaborated with the council.

Each year, Prof. L. F. Palmer and the male members of Huntington High School staff, have directed a survey of job opportunities for high school and college graduates in the city, with special emphasis upon the shipyard and the lucrative Jefferson Avenue trading area. The facts gathered were placed at the disposal of the council.

[illegible] 7 1941

MANAGER PLEASED

The manager of the Dixie store, Robert L. Mack, agreed to employ the girls after conferring with the council officials and Prof. Palmer who selected the employes on the basis of ability, character and family background.

Mr. Mack, who was formerly manager of the Peter Pan store on U Street in Washington, told the Guide-Star that Sam Friedman, president of the Dixie Stores Company, has used colored sales girls in Washington for a number of years and found them dependable, reliable and efficient. He spoke very highly of the new employes here. Each girl has charge of a special department and will be fully trained in salesmanship and merchandising.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 17, 1941

—Staff Photo.

Joseph St. J. Gilpin, Right, Receives Token of Esteem From Fellow Postal Clerks

Postmaster McRee Presents Billfold to Negro Retiring After 42 Years' Service

Negro Postal Clerk Is Given Token After 42 Years Service

Forty-two years of steady devoted service were recognized yesterday afternoon when Joseph St. J. Gilpin, 62-year-old Negro clerk of the Richmond Post Office, was presented with a bountifully stuffed calfskin billfold "on the floor" of the outgoing mail center where he had worked since he was 20 years old.

It was from the hand of Postmaster Fergus McRee that Joseph received the token of esteem, donated by his fellow clerks, predominantly white men. And for 10 minutes the pastmaster paid tribute to Joseph as an excellent clerk, an above-the-average clerk, before he concluded his talk.

Sixty-two years ago, Joseph was born in Richmond in the house next door to the one where he now resides with his wife at 1005 St. Peter Street.

He was graduated from the public schools of Richmond and it was not long afterward that the battleship Maine mysteriously blew up and sank in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, loosing the drums of war in the United States.

Was Second Lieutenant

Joseph signed up readily in Company B, Sixth Virginia Volunteer Infantry. His all-Negro outfit never got nearer the war than Macon, Ga., but Joseph came out a second lieutenant.

It was while still an officer in the Army that Joseph was notified by the late Postmaster Benjamin B. Weisiger in a letter dated August 18, 1898—a letter the clerk

---

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

AUG 7 1941

Daily Employs Race Linotype Operator

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va.—N. Milton Hill, of Washington, D. C., a 1941 graduate of Hampton Institute's Printing Department, has just gained the distinction of being the first Negro linotype operator ever to be hired on the permanent staff of the Gloucester (Va.) Gazette-Journal, Frank W. Ladd, chairman of the printing department, has announced.

Mr. Ladd also announced that, as in past years, every printing graduate has been placed in either the field of press work, composition or linotype operation. The only exception in the 1941 class is one student who enlisted in the army.

Mr. Hill was sent to the newspaper by Mr. Ladd for a temporary rush job during commencement week in May. He proved so proficient in linotype work that he was asked to stay on as a permanent employee.

While at Hampton Institute, Mr. Hill was active in out-of-class activities, completed the flying course and was one of the editors of the Hampton Script. He has been accepted in the Flying Cadet School of the United States Army at Tuskegee and will probably be sent there when the new flying field is completed next year.

——A Colored Judge——

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Misguided Strategy

NOV 1 1941

THE Newport News Youth Council, acting contrary to the seasoned judgment and constructive advice of their counselors and friends, made an ill-starred effort to picket Shapiro's Department Store in seeking to hurry the management into acceptance of their request that Negro salesgirls be placed on the payroll.

The store replied by asking the court for, and obtaining, an injunction against the council which it shall endeavor to have made permanent this week.

Picketing of the store followed the distribution of circulars branding it as "defiant" of the council's wishes. The net results of this misguided strategy are: the council has embarrassed the Inter-denominational Ministers Alliance and forfeited much of the confidence placed in its good intentions by civic leaders and representative citizens, all of whom previously endorsed, in principle, its campaign for jobs.

In his eternal struggle for full manhood rights and economic betterment in this last outpost of a workable democracy, the Negro can not afford to forget the bitter lessons of prejudice and racial hate which he has been forced to learn through the ages.

When he attempts to employ the same technique of antagonism and persecution towards those of other groups with whom he has grievances, he is headed for disaster and severely jeopardizes all the gains he has made since shaking off the bonds of chattel slavery.

NOV 1941

The employment of Negro salesgirls and others in stores enjoying the bulk of Negro patronage is a just economic demand, but nowhere, North or South, can it be forced by insolence, emotional militancy, and utter disregard for the rights of employers and those employes affected by a radical change in personnel.

The slogan, "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work," born of racial economic desperation, is a two-edge sword; it works both ways. Very often, it is an incentive for employers not affected directly by the crusade to drop from their payrolls efficient and long-term Negro employes in their service.

We sincerely hope that this will not be the case in Newport News and that, for the good of all concerned, the Youth Council will discard its present misguided strategy as applied to the job campaign and listen to the voice of reason and experience. It is an unwise program which, in the end, destroys public goodwill and interracial comity.

35g-1941

WASHINGTON

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DESTITUTE WHITE GIRL OWES 'LUCK' TO RACE PORTERS

ANACOSTES, Wash., July 17—A white California college graduate, tired and penniless in Boston, Mass., has two Negro porters to thank for her recent good luck in receiving a two-year contract with the National School Assembles, for when Miss Betty Annette Lowman arrived there from Nova Scotia, she was a perfect stranger.

It all started last summer when she joined the crew of a small schooner intent on an extensive cruise. As the ship neared Nova Scotia, it was wrecked in a gale and Miss Lowan lost all of her belongings. She tramped her way to Halifax, a distance of 143 miles, where she gained various jobs as a "gas girl," church choir singer, waitress, and finally as an entertainer for the Canadian soldiers.

RECEIVED $5 AID

A yen for the U.S.A. set in and Miss Lowman booked passage for Boston, using the money she had saved throughout the past seven months. When she arrived in Boston she was broke and frightened.

"When the ship docked in the morning, I disembarked, wearing my patched sea-going clothes and with my canvas seabag hoisted to my shoulder. There was a cold knot of fear in the pit of my stomach as I started to the waterfront streets."

Keddrick Terrell carried her bags to the bus and, out of sympathy, gave her fare to the YWCA. Her bad luck followed, for there were no rooms available. She decided to wait for someone to check out and, after several hours of this, received a call from Terrell. He stated that his fellow workers had pooled their resources and were contributing $5 to assist her until she could secure regular employment. J. McSweeney brought her the money. Good luck came to her, for within two weeks the National School Assemblies had heard her story and signed her to lecture for the next two years.

JUL 19 1941

35g-1941 WEST VIRGINIA

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Passes Exam as Foreman of Mine

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—(ANP)—Thomas D. Saunders passed an examination held by the state department of mines here last week with a rating of 94 and received a certificate as a first-class mine foreman. There were 18 who took the examination, Mr. Saunders being the only Negro. Saunders is an employe of the U. S. Coal and Coke company, Gary, W. Va.

AUG 9 1941

35h-1941

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

THREE ESCAPEES FROM PEONAGE TO GIVE TESTIMONY

JAN 25 1941

CHICAGO, Ill. —(ANP) — Three witnesses who are said to have escaped from the alleged peonage farm of W. T. Cunningham in Ogelthorpe County, Georgia, are being sought by the Abolish Peonage Committee to furnish testimony to the federal government in this case, it was announced last week by Bob Wirtz, secretary of the committee.

The persons sought are Freeman Maddox, last known to be working for a Mr. Maxwell at Lexington or Crawford, Ga.; Wilbur Yancey, last known to be residing at 922 Tyson Street, Baltimore, and Cleveland Johnson.

These persons or others knowing their present whereabouts are asked to get in touch with the Abolish Peonage Committee at Room 609-610, 192 North Clark Street, Chicago,

---

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

U. S. TO PROSECUTE WHITE GA. PLANTER AND HIS ATTORNEY

35-1

By HUGH S. GARDNER, Staff Correspondent

CHICAGO, June 5—The shocking habit of slavery—"the Dixie way"—with both white and Negro poor farmers as its victims, was shown in all its hideous nakedness to a Federal Grand Jury here last week. Late Thursday afternoon United States Attorney J. Albert [illegible] announced that indictments had been returned against William Toliver "Cap'n Willie" Cunningham and Hamilton McWhorter, both of Oglethorpe county, Georgia.

JUN 7 1941

They are charged with conspiracy to retain and hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery on the cotton plantations of Cunningham at Lexington, Ga. The charge is made that overt acts of the conspiracy to hold men in bondage were committed here in Chicago by Cunningham and McWhorter, hence their trial will be held here in the Federal District Court.

Copies of the indictment are now en route to Georgia. Cunningham and McWhorter will be required to appear before the Federal Commissioner in their district where removal proceedings will take place, and they will be required to make $5,000 bond each or else be held in custody until the trial. If found guilty they can be fined a maximum of $5,000 each and receive a maximum sentence in the penitentiary of five years each, or both.

McWHORTER DENIES CHARGE

A northern metropolitan daily newspaper is reported to have reached McWhorter, Cunningham's lawyer and former president of the Georgia State Senate, at his home by phone. He is quoted as terming his indictment by the Chicago Federal Grand Jury as "just some of that Chicago stuff." The reporter also said McWhorter declared there [illegible] foundation for the indictment.

JUN 7 1941

To the contrary the grand jury heard several witnesses the government brought here from Oglethorpe county to testify. Among them a white sheriff and a white overseer on Cunningham's farm. Whatever they told the jury folk is still a secret, but before they tetstified both expressed definite dislike for the manner in which Cunningham treated his Negro tenant farmers.

In addition Otis Woods, Dock Woods, Solomon McCannon, all of whom now live with their wives and children in Chicago and Dennis Thomas, an elderly man from the dark Georgia county told plenty of their experiences on the farm where Cunningham would at first promise them, they said, $10 a month and when they would ask him for their wages he would say he didn't have it and lash them with buggy traces.

Dennis Thomas has a scar near his left eye caused, he said, when Cunningham stepped on him after knocking him down. Will Fleming has what he calls a pistol mark on the back of his head. Various other brutalities were cited to the extent that the jury returned an 11-page indictment.

Georgians here in Chicago who have stood by to watch Col. William Henry Huff, chief counsel for the Oglethorpe County Abolish Peonage Committee of Chicago, fight a relentless fight against seemingly unsurmountable odds were high in their praise of his struggle this week as he approaches the victorious goal he set out to attain for his people, which was, after all, just the regular American freedom they are guaranteed under the Constitution.

JUN 7 1941

They compared him to Moses saying that Nehemiah returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and Moses went back to Egypt to set his people free. Col. Huff is a native of Oglethorpe county and due to his hard fight against the acts of peonage told to him from time to time he secured the support of white people in many parts of the South. Instead of receiving any fees for his work, Col. Huff has spent nearly $3,000 of his own money to bring the case as far as the Federal grand jury.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

I. L. D. HAILS INDICTMENT OF 2 GA. PLANTERS

Peonage Probe Progress Seen As Death Blow To 'Legal Slavery'

By ANNA DAMON
National Secretary
International Labor Defense

JUL 5 1941

The indictment of William S. Cunningham and Hamilton McWhorter of Lexington, Ga., in Chicago last month, on charges of "conspiracy to hold Negroes in a state of peonage and slavery" represents the first visible and concrete step toward the victorious conclusion of a fight begun 20 months ago by the International Labor Defense.

It was a tough fight, filled with many obstacles, and typical of the traditional obstinacy of the International Labor Defense in refusing to take "No" for an answer, because we won't accept injustice.

The present campaign of the I.L.D., for abolition of peonage and punishment of its perpetrators began with defending four Negro prisoners from extradition to Georgia.

On September 8, 1939, four Negroes were arrested in Chicago (one without a warrant) and held for extradition to Georgia on charges brought in person by Cunningham and McWhorter.

The charges stated that the men had stolen two bushels of corn from Cunningham's barn in Oglethorpe county, Ga., in December 1935. Though the men had remained in his employ for at least a year after the alleged crime, Cunningham made no effort to punish or arrest them. Scores of his ex-employes have testified to that in stories that freeze the blood of those who hear them:

"I asked Mr. Cunningham for my pay. He told me he would knock my brains out if I asked for it again and threatened to knock my brains out if I left the plantation. I saw him beat with straps and pistol butts when they were brought back to the plantation after running away."

"Cunningham beat me on my head with a pistol butt because he said I was not working fast enough."

JUL 5 1941

"[illegible] was pregnant when she was beaten in 1923. While she was hoeing cotton Cunningham got out of his buggy. She told him she was doing her work all right. This made Cunningham mad so he beat her lots around the head and body with his whip."

William Cunningham says he is his own government on his Sandy Cross plantation. He thought he could not only rule it like a medieval tyrant, but carry fury against runaway workers to Chicago.

It was public and official presentation of some of these facts secured by Atty. William H. Huff, who was the first to handle the cases, and the I.L.D., that freed the prisoners. The late Governor Henry Horner of Illinois, apprised of them by I.L.D. investigators, refused to order extradition.

Affidavits were secured from as many of Cunningham's ex-workers as could be found in Chicago. The search extended to Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Oglethorpe county itself where the families of many who had escaped from Cunningham are still living in fear of their lives.

All of this documentary material was turned over to the Department of Justice 20 months ago with the request that it investigate and prosecute Cunningham and McWhorter under the Federal Civil Rights statute. Simultaneously assistance was rendered to many of Cunningham's victims whose families he still holds under his rule. Tickets to freedom were supplied them via a 1939 version of the Underground Railroad.

During the 20 months fight, J. Edgar Hoover twice informed the Abolish Peonage committee of the I.L.D.—a representative body of civic, fraternal and other progressive groups in the Mid-West—that the Georgia case was closed; that full investigation had shown no basis for federal action.

The I.L.D. did not accept these verdicts.

The publicity given each step in the abolish peonage campaign, had roused more and more people to indignant protest against this brutal, un-American institution. The National Negro Congress, trade unions, the N.A.A.C.P., leaders of Negro fraternal groups, of civic bodies, the National Lawyers Guild joined in the demand for justice. Each refusal on the part of the Department of Justice to take action, brought greater demands for action —until the indictments resulted.

JUL 5 1941

The hideous evil of peonage—human slavery for debt with all the brutality such slavery implies—still flourishes in our land. It is difficult to believe, yet a Georgia white Baptist ministers' convention in 1939 stated that more people were affected by peonage in 1939 than were held in slavery before the Civil War.

The I.L.D., having succeeded in getting Cunningham and McWhorter indicted, is not content to let the case stop there. They must be convicted. Others guilty of the same crime must be punished too.

35h-1941

They Know About Peonage from First-Hand Experience

JAN 31 1941

The Call – Kansas City, Mo. JAN 31 1941

A few of the men and women who know what peonage is like in Oglethorpe county, Ga. Now in Chicago, these persons have told their stories to William Henry Huff, the Chicago lawyer who is leading the fight to have guilty plantation owners in Georgia prosecuted for peonage. Left to right, front row: Eloise Smith, Cleo Fleming, Laura McCannon and Lucy Woods Appling. Standing, left to right: Will Fleming, Solomon McCannon, Clyde Smith and Otis Woods.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ESCAPED VICTIMS TELL OF LIFE ON A PEONAGE FARM

the Call

JAN 31 1941

CHICAGO. William Henry Huff, attorney who is waging a fight for the prosecution of plantation owners in Oglethorpe county, Ga., who are guilty of peonage, has obtained first-hand accounts of conditions on those plantations from escaped victims.

Despite the information and facts that he has produced, the U. S. department of justice so far has refused to prosecute the planters

"We have no other course," says Huff, "than to accuse Attorney General Robert Jackson and the present administration of protecting the criminal slaveholders and peonage operators of the South—deciding in favor of the poll tax, pro-lynch politicians and business and against the people and against democracy."

Will Fleming, one of the victims from Oglethorpe, escaped several years ago and captured near Atlanta was taken back and chain ganged. He spent 22 years in the clutches of a planter.

Solomon McCannon was twice chain ganged; once because his relatives in Chicago sent $35 to Miss Ada Smith, his cousin, a young Negro school teacher, to be turned over to him. Miss Smith and her father, William (Goody) Smith, were also jailed for the incident although neither the money nor the letter was ever actually given them. "Although this has been many years ago, the F. B. I. has yet to tell who, if anyone, cashed that U. S. money order," says Huff.

The Call

25 Years In Peonage

Clyde Smith spent 25 years in peonage. He ran away once with his wife to Madison, Morgan county, Georgia. The planter and a deputy sheriff went to Madison for him. He was out at the time so they took his wife back to Lexington, Oglethorpe county, knowing he would follow, which he did. When he made his final escape he stopped by the Nealy building in Atlanta to report the peonage-slavery operations. He says he was practically run out the office by an F. B. I. agent who said the planter was all right and that he did not want to hear anything he had to say because Grover White had sent him up there. Grover White is a brave Negro who has made it his business to report every case of peonage-slavery coming to his attention to the government.

K.C., Mo.

Otis Woods has a wife and 10 children. He his wife, and all those children old enough to work, worked 10 years trying to pay an $85 debt to the plantation owner for getting him out of a little whiskey "scrape." They could not pay with labor however long they worked, and they could get no money with which to pay him, so Woods, with his oldest son, 21 years of age, fled to Illinois and to freedom in May, 1936.

The Call

A year and a half later when the planter ascertained their whereabouts he had them, along with Solomon McCannon who fled December 27, 1936, indicted. The three were charged with having burglarized the planter's barn on December 23, 1935 and with having fled the jurisdiction of Georgia immediately after the burglary.

Termed Ridiculous

"This is downright ridiculous," said Huff, "when we consider the following undisputed facts:

"First, John Alexander, the white overseer who held the keys to the barn and lived adjacent to it, wrote men that neither these men nor any other men burglarized the barn, and that he never had any trouble with the men about stealing or otherwise.

"Second, Otis and Dock Woods were seen on the plantation up until May, 1936 by both white and Negro neighbors.

K.C., Mo.

Third, Solomon McCannon was treated on the plantation by Dr. W. L. Greene Jr., a witness for the state that he burglarized the barn in December, 1935, and fled immediately, in April and May of 1936. McCannon and both the residence December 24, 1935, and Woods' were in the planter's own McCannon was in there December 24, 1936, one year and one day after he "helped burglarize the barn and fled immediately."

"Fourth, I saw McCannon at a barbecue in the yard of Mrs. Elnora Yancy Maddox on August 22, 1936. This was only a few paces from the plantation in Oglethorpe county, Georgia. Terry Watkins of Chicago was with me and we both saw McCannon at that barbecue.

Cannot Be True

"When I was a student at Knox institute at Athens, Ga., years ago, a lawyer friend, J. Thomas Heard, in speaking of certain politicians said a person should never tell a lie unless he could make it fit. It will be hard for Cunningham and his gang to make this burglary lie fit. It just can't be done.

"Even though they hang me to the highest pine in Oglethorpe county, Georgia as was done to poor, defenseless Obe Cox, and riddle my mortal frame with lead, then tar it with feathers, saturate it with gasoline, and char it through bone to boot, still the lie will not fit."

35h-1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ga. County Grand Jury Brands Slavery Charges As Malicious

OCT 1 1 194 OCT 1 1 1941

Claim Charges Against Planter Held Oglethorpe County Up To Ridicule—Backs Judge's Decision.

LEXINGTON, Ga., Oct. 9—(ANP)—Appearing in the September 25 edition of the Oglethorpe Echo, local white daily, was a resolution by the grand jury branding false the charges of peonage in upper Oglethorpe county, and upholding Judge Bascom Deavers of the middle district court of Georgia in his refusal to extradite Hamilton McWhorter and William Tolliver Cunningham, white, for trial in Chicago.

Tolliver and Cunningham were charged with keeping Negroes in conditions of slavery and peonage, and Atty. William Henry Huff of the Abolish Peonage committee had sought to have them extradited to Chicago for trial. However, Judge Deaver ruled against the peonage lawyer and refused to released McWhorter and Cunningham to the Chicago court.

CHARGES FALSE

Said the resolution in part: "Whereas, our county of Oglethorpe through the widespread publicity given the case, has been held up to the nation as an object of ridicule, branding us as barbarous, inhuman and anti-social, we, the Oglethorpe country grand jury, wish

"Therefore, to go on record as branding the charges false, malicious and libellous and feel that any individual, body, or organization striving to stir up racial hatred is not contributing to the democartic form of constitutional government . . . The south and more especially Georgia and Oglethorpe county is the last stronghold of Anglo-Saxon civilization in this country, and we, the descendents of those forebears who carried the bloody flag of freedom across countless battlefields and planted it upon a thousand hills, protest with every fibre of our being the injustice that has been dealt us. . ."

PROTEST BOOK "NATIVE LAND"

Holding that Judge Deaver had handed down a true and correct decision, the resolution said "We also wish to commend that fearless southern gentleman Judge Bascom Deaver of the middle district of Georgia, for his action in the case, to the end that true justice would be served."

Protest was also registered by the grand jury against the book, "Our Native Land," written by Anna Louis Strong. It is their contention that the book "holds the county up to ridicule, being scurrilous, malicious and without basis in fact." The county grand jury also branded it as "unfit reading for people of the county."

Migrations to Harlem Are Found Adding to Its Problems

World Telegram
New York, N.Y.

National Effort Needed To Eliminate the Causes, Most of Officials Agree

SEP 18 1941

By JOHN D. MILES,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

The Harlem problem, which has spawned such terrifying affairs as the Harlem riots of 1935 and the recent crime wave, can be solved only by a concerted effort throughout the country. It cannot be solved by New York alone, for improved conditions for Negroes here bring about additional migrations from the South and add endlessly to the local problem.

This was the majority opinion advanced today by a number of persons particularly conversant with the Harlem situation in a series of interviews with the World-Telegram.

A National Problem.

In brief, these people agreed, the problem is national and not peculiar to any single community such as New York, where the country's largest Negro settlement is established.

"The need of a strong national program is great," said Lester B. Granger, assistant executive secretary of the National Urban League. "It will not be truly beneficial to correct the situation in Harlem and then have it all disjointed in several years by another tide of migration."

Welfare Commissioner William Hodson pointed out that substantial increases in the Negro population of every large Northern city had occurred within the last 10 years, due to the ever-growing tendency on the part of colored people to move away from the South.

"This problem," he said, "cannot be beaten until there is a larger measure of economic justice for Negroes in all parts of the country."

Commissioner Hodson explained that it was his belief that the migratory trend could be reduced greatly if every city, and particularly those in the South, would set a standard of living for Negroes on a par with the New York standards.

To the Negro ghetto of Manhattan in the last 10 years have come 100,000 poverty pilgrims, crowding and overflowing an area which, by all sanitary standards, should not house one-fifth of the present population of 450,000 now living there in squalor.

What has caused this migration? Mr. Granger said the one basic reason is the desire of the Southern Negro to live and work in comparative decency.

"Conditions are notorious in such states as Florida, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama," he said. The Negro is only dirt. Do you wonder he wants to get a place where he can hold up his head and be a man?"

Citing a survey made by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1936, Mr. Granger said it showed that in many counties in the states mentioned, Negro families of five received only $7 a month in relief.

"Living costs are naturally lower in the South," Mr. Granger said, "but $7 a month means starvation for that family which receives it."

Again referring to the FERA survey, Mr. Granger said it had been shown that in many instances white people in the same circumstances as blacks received twice as much relief money.

The $7 relief payment in the South compares with New York's average home relief of $96.45 a month for a similar family of five. In actual cash, the New York family receives $69.10, the remainder computed as the cost of medical care of all kinds, food stamps and free milk for children.

26 Per Cent of Relief Burden.

Of the total number of 123,900 relief cases in New York, incidentally, approximately 32,000 are Negro families, which figures roughly at about 26 per cent of the relief burden.

Admitting in most cases that any reforms will not be lasting until the national movement is started, the persons interviewed insisted that steps must be taken at any rate to improve, if only temporarily, the Harlem situation.

Makes Suggestions.

Mr. Granger, said he thought decentralization of the Negro population and absorption by the whites was advisable along with a three-point program to be headed by employment, both more and at a higher scale, for Negroes. Secondly, he said, would be more and better housing, followed by more social and educational facilities.

Unless some such program is adopted soon, he said, the situation holds all the possibilities of another flare-up. Mr. Granger cited the report of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem, appointed after the riots of 1935, to study and advise on a program. The report said in part:

" . . . . So long as these conditions persist, no one knows when they will lead to a recurrence with possibly greater violence."

To Erect a Center.

The Welfare Department, according to Mr. Hodson, is making a careful study of the department's services in Harlem to determine what further services might be added with benefit to the population. The department, he said, will begin construction of a Welfare Center Building—the first of its type ever to be built in this country—within the next three months for the people of Harlem.

Sixth Deputy Commissioner John H. Morris, president of the Police Athletic League, believes the proper approach to be through the youngsters of Harlem. The Police Department is attempting to prevent juvenile delinquency through offering four good-sized recreational centers.

It was Commissioner Morris' opinion that the present situation was an outgrowth of the "physical friction" in Harlem, where children grow up "block-bound."

"Too often," he said, "the only place they can play is in the gutter."

The Police Athletic League, Commissioner Morris said, is going to try to reach the youngsters, not only through their recreational centers, but also schools and churches, and teach the lesson that juvenile delinquency leads to adult criminality.

Park Commissioner Robert Moses also believes that it is important to get at the cause of the crimes through a close check on juvenile delinquency. Commenting on the situation in Harlem, Commissioner Moses said*

"The condition under which people are living are intolerable, and these conditions are basically responsible for the crimes and vandalism in the Harlem parks, particularly at the northeast end of Central Park."

Wants More Policemen.

To make the parks safe, Commissioner Moses said, it is imperative that the present undermanned police force in the park be increased.

Commissioner William Wilson of the Department of Housing and Buildings admitted that the overcrowded housing conditions in Harlem were probably responsible for the birth of Harlem crime, but he pointed out that Harlem, being a newer section of the city, boasted newer houses than many found on the lower East Side.

"What is needed there," he said, "is more playgrounds and recreation centers."

Building up of an adequate probation service in the city in order to give youthful offenders the benefit of experienced guidance is recommended by **Paul Blanshard**, executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, as a means of combating the local situation.

"The moment of first arrest of a youthful offender," Mr. Blanshard said, "is crucial in determining whether he is to become a penitent boy or a cynical criminal, but the city fails at that moment to give our boy offenders adequate guidance."

35h-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Abolish Peonage Committee Seeks Three Witnesses

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Three witnesses who are said to have escaped from the alleged peonage farm of W. T. Cunningham in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, are being sought by the Abolish Peonage committee to furnish testimony to the federal government in this case, it was announced last week by Bob Wirtz, secretary of the committee.

The persons sought Freeman Maddox, last known to be working for a Mr. Maxwell at Lexington or Crawford, Ga.; Wilbur Yancy, last known to be residing at 922 Tyson street, Balimore, and Cleveland Johnson.

These persons or others knowing their present whereabouts, are asked to get in touch with the Abolish Peonage Committee at Room 609-610, 192 North Clark St. Chicago.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

FAILURE TO TRY PEONAGE VIOLATION HIT

FEB 15 1941

"For more than sixteen months the United States Department of Justice has refused to prosecute W. T. Cunningham of Oglethorpe County, Ga., who is guilty of many crimes, and among them—Peonage and Slavery."

This is the charge made by the Abolish Peonage Committee, in a 5,000 word memorandum released by the committee on January 26.

The Abolish Peonage Committee was formed in the Fall of 1939, after a peonage operator from Georgia, W. T. Cunningham came to Chicago in an attempt to "capture" persons who had escaped from his Oglethorpe County, Ga., plantation. Col. William Henry Huff, chief counsel of the committee, stopped extradition proceedings, and since then, the committee has placed scores of affidavits before the Department of Justice, has taken a delegation to Washington to lay the matter personally before the Department of Justice, and has continually pressed for prosecution. However, the government fails to prosecute.

The memorandum describes the efforts of the committee by presenting excerpts of letters from J. Edgar Hoover, director of the F. B. I., O. John Rogge, former assistant United States Attorney General; R. G. Danner and W. S Devereaux, both F. B. I. agents Also included in the memorandum is a section of excerpts from affidavits signed and sworn to by persons who have escaped from Cunningham's farm. The final section of the memorandum is a Statement of Law, showing conclusively that the Department of Justice has the duty to prosecute.

Greensboro, N. C., News
June 3, 1941

PEONAGE IN GEORGIA.

William T. Cunningham, Oglethorpe county planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington, Ga., lawyer who at one time was president of the Georgia state senate, are under federal indictment at Chicago on charges of conspiracy "to hold negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery" in violation of the civil rights statute of 1870 which was enacted to make the provisions of the thirteenth amendment effective.

Five or six negroes, some one or two of whom are now in military service, have alleged that they were held under duress on the Cunningham plantation, paid no wages, flogged for attempting to escape and threatened with imprisonment in jail and on chaingang. It is further stated that in 1939 the defendants attempted the extradition of negroes they formally charged with burglary but to substantiate which they itemized only a charge of stealing two bushels of corn.

With no thought of condemning any man unheard, we are of the opinion that the Georgians are apt to find themselves in something of a bind. There are indications that they did recruit plantation workers from jail and chaingang. That doesn't sound good to a lot of North Carolinians who can remember the hiring out of jail prisoners by county commissioners and the leasing of state prisoners in these parts. Not that an occasional prisoner was not greatly benefited by being placed in the custody of a good citizen. But it was never intended that a private employer should as nearly have the power of life and death over a fellow human as some North Carolina users of enforced labor have in times past assumed.

We had thought Georgia had done away with the hiring out of prisoners—the lease system was discarded in North Carolina in 1917—but it seems that there is smoke enough in Oglethorpe county to justify a suspicion of fire. Whatever does or does not happen to Cunningham and McWhorter, it is to be hoped that the legislature of Georgia will promptly make it impossible for like charges again to be brought against its planters.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Two Georgians Are Indicted in Peonage Case

MAY 30 1941

Pair Charged With Conspiring To Hold Negroes in Slavery.

CHICAGO, May 29.—(AP)—Two Georgians — William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe county planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington lawyer and former president of the Georgia senate—were named in federal indictments today charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

The rare action was brought under the civil rights statute and charged the defendants conspired to deprive six Negroes, now in Chicago, of their civil rights under the 13th amendment which guarantees freedom from slavery.

Officer's Statement.

MAY 30 1941

A statement from the district attorney's office said the indictment charged that "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantations, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off of the chain gang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running by lashing them with straps and causing them to be imprisoned or sent to a Georgia chain gang if they attempted to run away."

The three counts in the indictment carry a maximum penalty, on conviction, of 14 years' imprisonment and $25,000 fine.

District Attorney J. Albert Woll said the federal court in this district had jurisdiction because of overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy allegedly committed in Chicago.

Came to Chicago.

The indictment charged that Cunningham and McWhorter came to Chicago in 1939 with extradition warrants and attempted to arrest three Negroes who had escaped from Cunningham's Sandy Cross plantation. The trio was charged with burglary, but the indictment alleged that the sole purpose of the defendants was to return the Negroes to peonage and slavery.

MAY 30 1941

Woll said he understood the crime charged against the Negroes —Otis Woods, Doc Woods and Solomon McCannon — was the theft of two bushels of corn from Cunningham's barn in December, 1935, but that they had remained on the plantation for a year after the alleged theft and Cunningham did not cause their indictment until after they had fled.

Denied Extradition.

The late Governor Horner denied their extradition to Georgia after the case was fought by Attorney William Henry Huff, who subsequently founded the abolish peonage committee to carry on the fight.

Woll said that Edwards Raines, now a private in the United States Army; Clyde Smith and Ella Smith also were named as fugitive Negroes and that Cunningham sought to cause their arrest also in Chicago, although he had no warrants for them.

"The case of Cunningham's plantation has been under investigation by the Department of Justice for some time," the statement added, "and numerous complaints have been received from various parts of the country of his brutality toward his Negro help. Working hours on the plantations are from dawn until dark with an hour for a noon meal. The Negroes receive no salaries but are fed from Cunningham's commissary rations of fat-back and meal."

McWhorter's Reply.

MAY 30 1941

At his residence in Lexington, McWhorter said "there is not any foundation" for the indictment.

McWhorter, president of the Georgia senate in 1933-35, said he went to Chicago as the legal representative of the Oglethorpe county sheriff to seek the extradition of the three Negroes.

He said extradition papers granted by the Governor of Illinois were withdrawn later and that the peonage charges were brought "to counter" the attempt to return the Negroes to face their indictment for burglary. "It's just some of that Chicago stuff," he remarked.

MAY 30 1941

Connection With [illegible]

McWhorter said his only connection with the case was that of an attorney for the sheriff, adding he "wouldn't know the Negroes if I saw them" and asserting they never had worked for him.

Cunningham, he said, was the prosecutor of the burglary charges and the employer of the Negroes. Cunningham, who also lives in Lexington, said there was "no basis" for the charges and declined to comment further.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

ACCUSED GEORGIANS DENY PEONAGE INDICTMENT CHARGES

CHICAGO — (SNS) — Denials came Friday from William T. Cunningham, Georgia planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, president of the Georgia Senate from 1933 to 1935, both of Lexington, Ga., who were indicted Thursday by federal authorities on charges of conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

McWhorter, a lawyer, said, "it's just some of that Chicago stuff. There is not any foundation for the indictment."

He said he went to Chicago as an attorney for the Oglethorpe County sheriff to seek extradition of three Negroes, and added he "wouldn't know the Negroes if I saw them."

Cunningham said there was "no basis" for the accusation. He declined further comment.

District Attorney J. Albert Woll said this district of Federal Court had jurisdiction of the case because of overt acts allegedly committed here in furtherance of the conspiracy.

The indictment returned Thursday, charges McWhorter and Cunningham conspired to deprive six Negroes of their civil rights under the 13th amendment to the federal constitution guaranteeing freedom from slavery.

The Negroes are in Chicago. Instrumental in bringing about the indictment was William Henry Huff, colored attorney of Chicago.

MAY 31 1941

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

GEORGIA PLANTER, LAWYER INDICTED IN PEONAGE CASE

Lure Workers to Plantation Slavery, Says U. S. Charge

(The Associated Press)

Chicago, May 30. — Two Georgians, William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe county planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington, lawyer, and former president of the Georgia Senate—were named Thursday in federal indictments charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

The rare action was brought under the civil rights statute and charged the defendants conspired to deprive six Negroes, now in Chicago, of their civil rights under the 13th amendment which guarantees freedom from slavery.

A statement from the district attorney's office said the indictment charged that "for many years Cunningham [illegible] enslaved Negroes on his plantations, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off of the chain gang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps and causing them to be imprisoned or sent to a Georgia chain gang if they attempted to run away."

The three counts in the indictment carry a maximum penalty, on conviction, of 14 years' imprisonment and $25,000 fine.

District Attorney J. Albert Woll said the federal court in this district had jurisdiction because of overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy allegedly committed in Chicago.

Return Once Denied

The indictment charged that Cunningham and McWhorter came to Chicago in 1939 with extradition warrants and attempted to arrest three Negroes who had escaped from Cunningham's Sandy Cross Plantation. The trio was charged with burglary but the indictment alleged that the sole purpose of the defendants was to return the Negroes to peonage and slavery.

Woll said he understood the crime charged against the Negroes—Otis Woods, Doc Woods and Solomon McCannon—was the theft of two bushels of corn from Cunningham's barn in December, 1935, but that they had remained on the plantation for a year after the alleged theft and Cunningham did not cause their indictment until after they fled.

The late Governor Horner denied their extradition to Georgia after the case was fought by Attorney William Henry Huff who subsequently founded the abolish peonage committee to carry on the fight.

Woll said that Edward Raines, now a private in the United States army, Clyde Smith and Ella Smith also were named as fugitive Negroes and that Cunningham sought to cause their arrest also in Chicago although he had no warrants for them.

"The case of Cunningham's plantation has been under investigation by the department of justice for some time," the statement added, "and numerous complaints have been received from various parts of the country of his brutality toward his Negro help. Working hours on the plantations are from dawn until dark with an hour for a noon meal. The Negroes receive no salaries but are fed from Cunningham's commissary rations of fat-back and meal."

At his residence in Lexington, McWhorter said "there is not any foundation" for the indictment.

McWhorter, president of the Georgia Senate in 1933-35, said he went to Chicago as the legal representative of the Oglethorpe county sheriff to seek the extradition of the three Negroes.

He said extradition papers granted by the governor of Illinois were withdrawn later and that the peonage charges were brought "to counter" the attempt to return the Negroes to face their indictment for burglary. "It's just some of that Chicago stuff," he remarked.

McWhorter said his only connection with the case was that of an attorney for the sheriff, adding he "wouldn't know the Negroes if I saw them," and asserting they never had worked for him.

Cunningham, he said, was the prosecutor of the burglary charges and the employer of the Negroes. Cunningham, who also lives in Lexington, said there was "no basis" for the charges and declined to comment further.

MAY 31 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Says Peonage Not Uncommon Practice In Ga.

Very Difficult To Eradicate, Says Eleazer

Federal indictment in Chicago of William T. Cunningham white Georgia planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, white lawyer, on charges of peonage Saturday brought comment from R. B. Eleazer, of the Interracial Commission. The statement was as follows:

"Irrespective of the merits of this particular case, about which we are not informed, the federal indictment in Chicago of two Georgians in charges involving peonage serves to headline widespread practices for years well known to students of the race problem in this state. This is the more surprising in a state which has its origin as a refuge for debt prisoners from the old world.

"First brought into the limelight twenty years ago by the famous 'Murder Farm' case, charges of enforced servitude in one form or another have several times been before the courts, but usually without result. The practice, indeed, is very difficult to eradicate, since its victims are usually afraid to testify, and because, in sections where it is common, juries usually acquit or disagree.

"Strictly speaking, peonage is servitude for debt, but in practice it takes various forms. Sometimes the result is achieved by outright intimidation and duress, sometimes by holding bonds and fines over the heads of the victim, sometimes by threat of prosecution under sections 715 and 716 of the penal code of 1910, which make imprisonment for debt possible under certain circumstances.

"This law, by the way, was recently challenged on constitutional grounds in a case raising in Wilkison County, was sustained by the Supreme Court of the State, and is now on the way to the United States Supreme Court for final decision."

JUN 1 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Slave Indictment

LAST week a Federal grand jury, sitting in Chicago, did its bit to make the Constitution of the United States a living instrument when it indicted persons who were holding Negroes in slavery three-quarters of a century after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and after the nation passed the Thirteenth amendment proclamation that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States."

The locale of the slave plantation is seventy miles east of Atlanta. District Attorney J. Albert Woll presented evidence to the grand jury when some thirty Negroes' testimony revealed that "Willie" Cunningham of Oglethorpe county held members of their race in virtual slavery under Georgia's debtor laws.

Cunningham was not satisfied to keep Negroes on his slave farm. He looked about for better pickings. He got along pretty well by himself until he started "monkeying" around with the wrong Negroes in the North—Chicago, to be correct—then he found himself in a pot of boiling water. He found the Federal Bureau of Investigation on his heels. He found disfavor with the late Governor Horner. And now he finds himself in the clutches of Uncle Sam and must atone for the wrongs that he has done to Negroes, who no doubt, soon will be fighting to perpetuate democracy. It is well that the government is doing something to assure Negroes that they will not be fighting to perpetuate the democracy that Cunningham knows and enjoys best.

Cunningham came North to get Negroes who had left his farm without his permission. He would accuse them of committing a crime and have them indicted. Then he would have the governors to return them on extradition warrants. He tried it once too often.

He probably will take no more Negroes from the North to work on his farm without pay; where food is rationed every two weeks at the rate of 24 pounds of meal, a little flour and 12 pounds of uncured pork; where there are no potatoes, butter or milk; where clothes are rationed twice a year and where pregnant women work until the time to bear their babies and return to work two weeks after.

Cunningham was caught. There are a good number of his kind that have not been caught. The government will be remiss in its duties if it stops with the prosecution of Cunningham. It must continue until every peon of the South is released from the shackles that bind him to the farm.

JUN 15 1941

35h-1941 GEORGIA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WON'T PRODUCE GA. DEFENDANTS FOR ILL. TRIAL

Jurist Balks At Request For Custody Of Two Plantation Owners

35-h

In an action believed without precedent, Federal Judge Bassom Deaver, of Macon, Ga., wrecked the United States government's case against Hamilton McWhorter and W. T. Cunningham, indicted for peonage, when he refused Friday, August 28, to grant a petition of removal to trial in Chicago of the two men.

Judge Deaver's action is tantamount to acquittal of the two men since there is no appeal from his decision. The men had been indicted May 29 in Chicago on charges of "peonage and slavery" following the presentation of evidence before a federal grand jury here by Atty. William Henry Huff, chief counsel for the Abolish Peonage committee.

A spokesman for the committee said Tuesday that only two courses of action were left open. Both of these, he said, will be prosecuted in an effort to end the enslavement of Negroes in several sections of the South, particularly Oglethorp county, where Cunningham is a large land owner.

One line of procedure which will be followed, though it is believed to be futile, is to ask the government to refile its petition of removal. Since decision in this matter must be made by Judge Deaver, there is little reason to believe that his attitude will be different.

The other action in which the committee is placing great faith is the impeachment of the judge by congress. Precedent for impeachment on similar grounds, the spokesman said, can be cited.

W. T. Cunningham came to Chicago in 1939 with fraudulently obtained extradition warrants in an attempt to return to peonage three men who had escaped from his slave-farm in Oglethorpe county.

He was accompanied by his attorney, Hamilton McWhorter, who had wired ahead asking the Cook county police to arrest Ed Raines also, another worker who had escaped from Cunningham's farm, even though Cunningham had not gone to the trouble of extradition proceedings against him.

The late Gov. Henry Horner refused extradition when Attorney Huff and the Abolish Peonage committee revealed the true facts behind the case.

Stirred by the brazenness of Cunningham and WcWhorter, Attorney Huff set about to break up the peonage farm. Backed by the committee, Huff interviewed many former residents of Oglethorp county, several of whom had at one time worked as "slaves" on the Cunningham plantation. Secretly, dispositions were secured from other persons at present living on Cunningham's farm.

When this information was laid before a federal grand jury in Chicago, indictment of the two men was immediately voted, and the government launched upon a prosecution of the two men.

As a first step the government instituted "removal" proceedings necessary to bring the two men to Chicago for trial in the federal court.

Judge Deaver's decision was a distinct shock to government representatives here anxious to prosecute the case. In handing down a decision releasing the men, the judge, it is charged by the committee, overstepped his authority.

"The only question before Judge Deaver," the spokesman said, "was whether the men arrested were the same men mentioned in the indictment and whether or not there was probable cause that they might possibly have violated the law."

Since the latter had already been answered by the indictments voted in Chicago, the committee contends that the only matter left for Judge Deaver to act upon was one of identification.

August 26, 1941

U. S. Judge Weighs Location Of Trial On Peonage Charge

MACON, Ga. (AP) — Whether Hamilton McWhorter, former president of the Georgia Senate, and W. T. Cunningham, Oglethorpe County planter, must face trial at Chicago on charges they conspired to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery" is up to District Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver.

A day-long hearing was conducted at Athens yesterday, and Judge Deaver said then he would hand down a ruling at Macon "in about two days."

Federal authorities requested removal of the two men to Chicago for trial. The point Judge Deaver has for decision is whether he considers the evidence strong enough to warrant removal.

Wallace Miller, attorney for Cunningham, said if Judge Deaver rules in favor of the two men "that will be the end of it since there is no provision of law providing for the transfer of a case from one Federal district to another."

McWhorter and Cunningham were indicted by a Chicago Federal grand jury several months ago and the Chicago district attorney's office said the indictment charged that "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantations, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off of the chain gang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps."

The indictment was returned after three Negroes, who had worked on Cunningham's farm, were successful in resisting extradition to Oglethorpe County where they are under indictment on burglary charges.

Attorneys for McWhorter and Cunningham argued there was no evidence that the two men conspired to bring the Negroes into peonage. They also contended the Chicago court lacked jurisdiction and the charges should have been made in the district where the two men reside and where the alleged abuses occurred.

McWhorter, a Lexington attorney, testified that he acted as legal counsel to the Oglethorpe County Sheriff and had been asked by him to help in preparation of a requisition for extradition. He said it was presented to former Governor E. D. Rivers, who in turn, asked the Governor of Illinois to return the three Negroes.

McWhorter represented the county at the extradition hearing at Chicago.

Cunningham testified he had never kept Negroes in servitude on his farm and several Oglethorpe County residents were called to the stand in support of his testimony.

Henry A. Schweinhaut, special assistant to the attorney general, headed the government counsel at the hearing. He declared "We have shown that the Negroes did work on Cunningham's farm, that there was an attempt to bring them back to the State and that there is a claim that they attempted to bring them back for peonage purposes, so there should be a trial before a jury."

SEP 8 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Peonage Decision Must Be Recalled, Huff Declares; Dred Scott Case Is Cited

AUG 30 1941

35h (Ga. 1941

Quotes Lincoln In Answer To Georgia Judge

AUG 30 1941

Chicagoan Reveals New Angles in Case

CHICAGO —(SNS)— Commenting on the decision handed down Thursday by Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver, at Macon, Georgia, in the hearing on peonage charges against W. T. Cunningham white planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, former president of the state senate, William Henry Huff, chief counsel of the Abolish Peonage Committee referred to Lincoln's refrence to Chief Justice Taney's infamous decision. Said Attorney Huff:

"When Chief Justice Taney rendered his infamous decision in the Dred Scott case, immortal Lincoln said, 'this decision must be recalled', and Judge Deaver's decision in this case is as contrary to the ends of justice as was Taney's, and it, too, must be recalled.

"I wonder if Judge Deaver knew that McWhorter and Cunningham, after we threatened to expose to the ~~Government and~~ the nation their ~~diabolical~~ operation, rushed home from Chicago in September, 1939 and indicted all the material witnesses who might possibly be called upon as witnesses against them in the Federal Courts of Georgia, and that this was done in order that they might chaingang these witnesses if they dared come to Georgia as such witnesses.

AUG 30 1941

I wonder if the judge knows that McWhorter at one time sentenced Solomon McCannon to the chaingang at Cunningham's behest in his (McWhorter's) office without judge, jury, clerk, bailiff or ceremony.

"This infamous decision in the Dred Scott case created more abolitionists than the combined oratory of William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, and Frederick Douglass. It stirred the passive and swept them into the bandwagon of justice and humanity; it further intensified the already growing army. In other words, it was the torch that set the prairie on fire Judge Deaver's decision is destined to do likewise. Peonage must be abolished."

In his ruling Thursday, Federal Judge Deaver declared Cunningham and McWhorter did not have to go Chicago to stand trial on the charge of conspiring to held colored men and women in peonage and slavery.

Charges against the two Oglethorpe county men were returned under a Chicago indictment.

The indictment was obtained by Huff, who contends that efforts were made by Cunningham and McWhorter to return Negroes from Chicago to the Cunningham plantation. Huff had sought to have the trial held in federal court in Chicago.

Judge Deaver's ruling called for discharge of the defendants and court attaches said this meant the two white men were safe from any further prosecution on the charge as long as they remain in the middle district of Georgia.

The fight to bring Cunningham and McWhorter to trial lasted several years. Attorney Huff was able to get affidavits from former Cunningham farm workers who accused the white planter of beating and shooting some of the colored hands.

The jurist said that in going to Chicago to seek return of Negroes who formerly worked on his farm, "Cunningham may have had a bad motive but there is no more reason to think he was in a conspiracy with McWhorter than that he was in a conspiracy with all the state and county officers."

The decision said that "if persons are being held in a condition of peonage on the Cunningham farm he should be indicted and convicted, but the government should not link McWhorter with him in a nonexistent conspiracy, in order to obtain jurisdiction in another district and to secure removal to that district for the trial."

AUG 30 1941

The Georgians were indicted in Chicago last May, where the district attorney's office said the true bill charged "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantation, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and getting them out of jail or off the chaingang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps."

The indictment was returned after three Negroes who had succeeded in resisting extradiction worked on Cunningham's farm to Oglethrope county, where they were charged with burglary.

McWhorter told Judge Deaver he had acted as local counsel for the Oglethrope county sheriff and had been asked to help prepare a requisition for extradition of the Negroes. At the Chicago hearing, he represented the county.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn

ANOTHER PEONAGE CASE BELIEVED FOUND IN GEORGIA

MAY 9 1941

Chain Gang Boss Of Oglethorpe County Accused Of Mistreating Farm Hand

CHICAGO, May 2 (ANP)—Another instance of peonage in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, was reported to Atty. William Henry Huff, chief counsel for the Abolish Peonage committee of this city, who is making determined efforts to have action taken in the matter by federal investigators.

MAY 9 1941

The case of a helpless farm hand who ran away to Atlanta to escape being flogged for making a fire in the field of his employer, Capt. Otis Smith, on a cold day and who was brought back to Oglethrope county and jailed, was bared to the peonage committee here by a white informant whose identity is unknown. Otis Smith went to the post office, obtained a letter written by the farm hand to his wife, opened it, and when the sharecropper was returned had him imprisoned along with his wife in the Lexington jail, according to the report.

Atty. Huff said, "Otis Smith, the former commissioner or chain gang boss of Oglethrope county has no more right to rifle other people's mail . .n the cheap mail rifling culprits of Chicago who are sent to the federal prisons, where they should be."

MAY 9 1941

The Abolish Peonage committee counsel recalled charges made against Cunningham of the same Georgia county for opening a letter sent to a Negro school teacher which contained a money order sent by Chicago relatives of Solomon McCannon for his escape from Cunningham's plantation. Atty. Huff, telling of the committees' determination to have federal intervention in the Otis Smith case said, "Oglethorpe county, Ga., must be made to know that it is a part of the United States."

MAY 9 1941

Still another instance of maltreatment was disclosed in informant's letter. An elderly worker on the plantation of a W. J. Paul, of Lexington, Oglethorpe county, made inquiries about a government check in which he was entitled to share; Paul told him that unless he agreed to remain on his plantation he would not get any of the $15 allegedly owed him. When Paul discovered that the elderly man has tried to investigate the conditions pertaining to the payment of the check he ran him off the plantation, according to the informant.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Jury Probes Charges Of Peonage in Georgia

MAY 13 1941

CHICAGO. [AP] — A federal grand jury began an investigation Monday of charges that a wealthy planter of Oglethorpe county, attempted to place about a dozen Chicago Negroes in a state of peonage.

Action was taken on the complaint of several Negroes who asserted members of their race, formerly employed on Oglethorpe county plantations, had been falsely arrested here and taken south.

MAY 13 1941

In some cases, the complainants charged, Georgia debtor statutes were applied to take the Negroes out of Illinois. About 20 witnesses have been subpoenaed.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Peonage Charges Studied in Chicago

MAY 13 1941

CHICAGO, May 12.—(AP)—A federal grand jury began an investigation today of charges that a wealthy planter of Oglethorpe county, Georgia, attempted to place about a dozen Chicago Negroes in a state of peonage.

Action was taken on the complaint of several Negroes who claimed that members of their race, formerly employed on Oglethorpe county plantations, had been falsely arrested here and taken south.

MAY 13 1941

In some cases, the complainants charged, Georgia debtor statutes were applied to take the Negroes out of Illinois. About 20 witnesses have been subpoenaed.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
June 1, 1941

Chicago Looks At Slavery

Chicago seems to be a rather strange place to bring an indictment charging peonage in Georgia, but the Federal District Attorney charges that the Georgia white men undertook to use extradition warrants there as a means of carrying two Negroes back to a species of slavery on their Georgia plantation. *The News and Observer* has no way of knowing the merits of the case. But it comes at a strange time. The most serious thing happening on the plantations of the South today is not any effort to keep Negroes—or white men, either—on the plantations but the entirely contrary process which is pushing tenants out as tractors come in. Slavery has been illegal since 1865 and all indications are that it is almost regarded as universally unprofitable in 1941 even if that news has not reached Chicago.

There is no disposition on *The News and Observer's* part to suggest that there might not be men in Georgia—or North Carolina or Chicago—willing to impose slavery on human beings. There are such men everywhere. But the far more disturbing fact is that the processes of crop control, mechanization and the like have so reduced the value of the man on the land in the South that more landlords are trying to get rid of people than are trying to hold them by illegal force. This crime is alleged to have occurred in 1939. At that time, with idle, unemployed, hungry former farm people standing on the street corners of all the little towns in the cotton belt, ready to work for the barest wages and not always getting them, plantation owners who would have made a trip to Chicago to catch a "slave" must have had other reasons than that one for the trip or have just had an eccentric weakness for slavery.

In recent years the plight of the Negro has not been that he was illegally forced to work without wages (though in some cases he may have been) but that he was all too legally debarred from work. He has shared with white men the progressive dispossession of thousands on the farms. In the towns he has been placed at increasing disadvantage in securing jobs even in the fields which formerly were regarded as belonging to the Negro. Increasingly his freedom from slavery has become a sort of barrier from employment.

None of this is written in defense of two indicted white men in Chicago. They may be both wicked and guilty. But it is written in sad realization of what freedom has too often meant in America so far as the Negro was concerned. Think of it: Before 1865 sensible men often paid as much as $1,000 for a prime field hand and acquired in the purchase the necessity of feeding him all year long all his life. How many Southerners would, even if they could, pay $1,000 for a field hand now and assume with the slave the necessity of feeding him and keeping him?

It is sad to say it, but the South has learned something better than slavery and learned it largely from the people who fought a war to set the Negroes free. The South has learned that men can be hired for little when they are wanted and then turned loose without any responsibility for their welfare beyond the job. The South has learned—and it was essential to the South's welfare that it learn it—that even on the land machines can do more efficiently and more cheaply the work of men. Under the pressures of regional disadvantages the South could not, if it would, keep the old patterns of slavery in a region where recently more people were trying to make a living on less land than was under cultivation at the time of the Civil War. In a mechanized America, it could not in sentimental agrarianism reject the tractors and other tools. It had instead to begin to understand the meaning of the fact that it contained half the farmers but only a fifth of the farm implements in America. So some tenant houses were pulled down, as "The Grapes of Wrath" told the North. Tenants pushed out of an increasingly difficult agricultural South turned hopefully North and West. And found few promised lands.

It is against this background that the charge of slavery is made in Chicago. It may be a true charge, but it is also a late one. Not many years ago in the South planters did resist the recruited migrations of Negroes northward. The migration continues, but now there is no sound of protest against the movement in the South. Nobody in the South is ready to bid in any slave markets. Peonage today would almost approximate philanthropy when the poverty of dispossessed former farm tenants is contemplated with their willingness to work for a little while for a very little cash. Slavery is gone in the South in general even if the fear of it, the emotional memory of it, lingers on in Chicago.

But there is an indictment which needs to be made and not merely against two strange Georgians. It is the indictment of those everywhere who ended slavery and made freedom for a once slave people so poor a thing that even slavery, like tenancy, seems a form of security now forever lost. A free land needs to contemplate this species of freedom. And the responsibility for it does not lie alone on Georgia or Georgians or the South. At an embarrassing moment it is an indictment of America.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

U. S. GRAND JURY PROBES PEONAGE

ATLANTA, Ga., May 22—Widespread interest has been created here and elsewhere in the State by reports from Chicago that charges of an attempt by an unnamed wealthy Oglethorpe county plantation owner to place some 10 or 15 Chicago Negroes in a condition of peonage, are being investigated by a Federal grand jury now in session in the Illinois city.

Accusation that a number of Negroes formerly employed by the planter, but who had removed to Chicago, had been falsely arrested there and forced to return, are understood to be the basis of the inquiry. The arrests, it is reported, were on charges that those concerned owed debts to the planter which they had failed or refused to pay.

It is understood that the Government is bringing several Negroes from Oglethrope to testify at the inquiry. Their identiy is being withheld at the present.

MAY 24 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SET TO TEST LEGALITY OF PENAL SYSTEM

Ira Taylor Suit Expected To Banish Slave Mart For Paying Debts

351

ATLANTA.—(ANP)—Georgia's so-called "peonage law," under which tenants and day laborers may be sent to jail for failure to repay advances made by their employers, is soon to be tested in the United States Supreme court, according to advices received from Washington by Atlanta attorneys handling the matter for the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

JUN 14 1941

The case involved is that of Ira Taylor, who lived on the farm of R. L. Hardie in Wilkinson county. Last year Hardie had Taylor arrested and fined; then lent him $19 with which to pay the fine, on Taylor's agreement to work for Hardie and repay the money.

When Taylor failed to carry out this contract, because of sickness he claimed Hardie prosecuted him for fraud under the "peonage law" and had him convicted and sentenced to eight months imprisonment.

At this point the case was brought to the attention of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation by Taylor's lawyer, Atty. T. T. Purdom of Sparta. The commission saw in it a favorable opportunity to test the constitutionality of the law and asked Leonard Haas, prominent Atlanta attorney, to work with Purdom in carrying the case up through the courts.

Appealing first to the Georgia Supreme court, their plea was denied on the ground that Taylor's conviction was punishment for fraud and not for debt. The case was then appealed to the United States Supreme court, where the effort will be made to have the law thrown out as in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment.

JUN 14 1941

One other state, Florida, has a similar law, which, like that of Georgia, is used to intimidate debtors and hold them on their jobs.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TODAY'S TALK

ILLINOIS CORRECTS GA. PLANTER, HIS LAWYER INDICTED

BY A. N. FIELDS

IN CHICAGO this week a federal grand jury has indicted a wealthy Georgia planter and his attorney, a former president of the Georgia State Senate. The two were charged with holding Negroes in slavery. The offense was committed on William Tolliver Cunningham's plantation, located near Lexington, in the state of Georgia. In addition to Cunningham, his attorney, Hamilton McWhorter, was also indicted.

351

LAW TWISTED IN SOUTH

A. N. Fields

They were charged with conspiracy to deprive Negroes of their civil rights in violation of the 13th Amendment; conspiracy to hold persons in slavery, and a conspiracy to return or hold a person in peonage.

The question might well arise as to why the same evidence could not have been presented to a Federal grand jury in the State of Georgia and the same result been obtained. The question is as obvious as the answer. Even the Federal courts of the South in many instances have conveniently found ways and means of so interpreting the law as to place its benefits beyond the reach of those it was intended to serve.

ANOTHER thing of importance occurred during the last week and may have correlative, effects upon the social phase of the question under discussion. The United States Supreme Court, in a four to three decision of far-reaching political implications, declared, "That the Civil Rights Act of 1870 clearly makes it unlawful to exclude Negroes from the Democratic congressional primaries in Southern States."

WHO WILL ENFORCE?

Of course this decision is very fine, but who is going to enforce it? That is the question. Surely Southern Federal district judges of the South, schooled in the slave traditions of the South, cannot be expected to enforce even a decision of a United States Supreme Court which contravenes Southern customs.

JUN 7 1941

IF the Federal district judges of the South could convene a Federal grand jury of the South, composed of men sufficiently liberal in views and themselves unconnected with peonage plantations and their possible financial benefits, there would be no need for Federal grand juries in Illinois indicting white men of the South for holding Negroes in slavery.

THE SOUTH WINKED?

The fact is that Cunningham of Oglethorpe county, allegedly aided and abetted by his lawyer, Hamilton McWhorter, could not have carried on their purported slave trade business for the past several years without having the social, intellectual as well as the judicial sympathy of all the law-enforcing agencies. The methods by which the constitutional rights of Negroes are suppressed in the South are easy.

JUN 7 1941

LAW is not permitted to take the place of Southern customs when the rights of black citizens are involved, and there is no way for the issue of right and wrong to be raised in most instances because the Southern Protestant church, if not a party to the suppression of Negro rights and privileges, carries on at least a conspiracy of silence.

INTERESTING

It is interesting to note that in the recent decision to which comment has been made, Mr. Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes took no part. Just why the chief justice chose to stand aside is not known. However it will be observed that Justices Hugo L. Black, Frank Murphy and William O. Douglas concurred in the dissenting opinion. There has been sharp comment concerning Justice Murphy by those who have already regarded him as having sympathetic concern with the rights and privileges of the man farthest down.

JUN 7 1941

35h-1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

SLAVERY CHARGE IS VOTED AGAINST COTTON PLANTER

The federal grand jury returned an indictment yesterday charging William Toliver Cunningham, a cotton planter of Oglethorpe county, Georgia, and his attorney, Hamilton McWhorter of Lexington, Ga., with conspiracy to keep Negroes in slavery and peonage. Peonage is defined as slavery resulting from debt.

It was related in the indictment that Cunningham persuaded Negroes dorking on road gangs, by promises of wages, to come to his plantations, where they speedily found they received no pay, worked from sunup to sundown, were lashed with straps, and fed on "fatback and meal" from the owner's commissary.

MAY 30 1941

The complaining witnesses are three Chicagoans who fled from Georgia. Cunningham sought their extradition on a charge they had stole two bushels of corn, but were denied their extradition. They are Otis and Doc Woods, brothers, 2958 State street, and Solomon McCannon, 2959 La Salle street. The law on which the indictment was based was passed in 1870 to protect Negroes in their civil rights, and has not been invoked anywhere since 1911.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

ACCUSED GEORGIA LAWYER DENIES PEONAGE CHARGE

Hamilton McWhorter, an attorney and former president of the Georgia state senate, yesterday termed his indictment Thursday by a Chicago federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy to keep Negroes in slavery and peonage as "just some of that Chicago stuff." McWhorter is attorney for William Toliver Cunningham, a cotton planter of Oglethorpe county, Ga., with whom he was indicted.

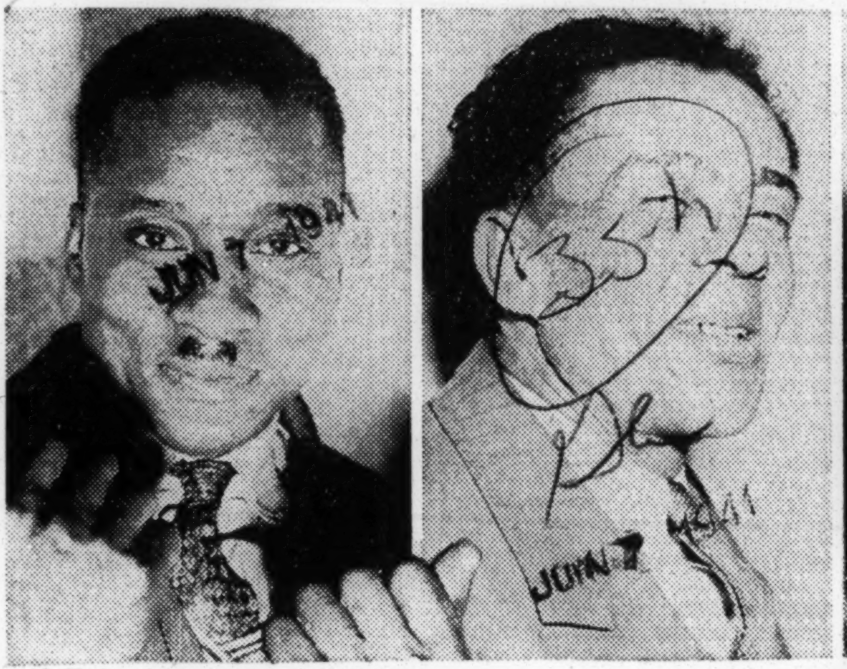
McWhorter, reached at his home in Lexington, Ga., said there was no foundation for the indictment. Cunningham also said that the charges were without basis.

They are accused of attempting to deprive six Negroes, now in Chicago, of their constitutional rights. The Negroes, according to the indictment, were lured from road gangs with promises of paying jobs on Cunningham's plantation, but charge they received no pay, worked from sunup to sundown, were fed "fatback and meal," and were lashed with leather straps.

MAY 31 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PRINCIPALS IN GEORGIA SLAVE QUIZ . . . AND THEIR LIBERATOR



JUN 7 1941

A Federal Grand Jury in Chicago last week, acting on evidence furnished by the above people, returned true bills of indictments against W. T. Cunningham and Hamilton McWorther, both white, of Oglethorpe, Ga., on charges of conspiracy to return and hold three Negroes in peonage and a state of slavery. Cunningham is a large cotton plantation owner in Georgia, known as the notorious "Sandy Cross" plantation, where these people formerly worked in bondage before escaping to Chicago, where the matter was brought to the attention of Federal authorities.

Left to right: A closeup of Solomon McCannon, who was placed on a chain-gang by Cunningham for attempting to escape. He later succeeded in getting away from the torture hole.

Second: Otis Woods, one of the main witnesses before the jury, claims he was arrested and fined. The fine was paid by Cunningham and Woods, his wife and ten children were kept in slavery for ten years to repay the $85 fine back.

Third: Clyde Smith spent 25 years on the plantation, and after his escape, Cunningham tried to "kidnap" him from Chicago back to the Georgia hell hole.

Fourth: Col. William Henry Huff, known as the modern "Lincoln," and chief counsel for the Abolish Peonage Committee, spent a small fortune to liberate his people and break up the peonage system. He was the spearhead behind the inquiry.

Inset: Here is the glorious meeting of Will Fleming and his wife, Cleo, as they greeted each other in Chicago. She succeeded in following her husband to freedom.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The Whole Peonage System Is Guilty

• The federal indictment of two Georgia Bourbons on the charge of holding six Negro sharecroppers in slavery on a plantation, does not scratch the surface of the wholesale peonage and semi-peonage that exists in the South.

At the same time, it shows that the three-year campaign led by the International Labor Defense and the Abolish Peonage Committee in Chicago finally compelled the Department of Justice to take some action.

But this action will scarcely lift the curtain on the vast empire of the feudal landlords. Not only are Negro families held in peonage but so are thousands of poverty-stricken whites. And peonage exposes not alone violations of the 13th Amendment, but of the 14th and 15th as well. For it is a phase of the lynch system which is being strengthened by the Administration's war drive and by the deliberate blocking of the anti-poll tax bill.

The federal government secures this indictment now only because the Negro people and their labor and progressive supporters are most insistent upon some of the democracy which President Roosevelt chats about. **It should be used to demand a vigorous prosecution of the defendants, to fight for the passage of the anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills, and to obtain enforcement of the Negro people's constitutional rights in all walks of life.**

JUN 2 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Victory in Peonage Trial Hailed a Blow to Poll-Tax

U. S. Indictment of Georgia Bourbons Spurs Fight for Anti-Lynch Bill, End of Poll Tax, Full Equality; I. L. D. Appeals for Aid in Struggle

35-h

Ga

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, June 3.—"This is a smashing victory of the democratic people of America over the poll-tax protected southern slavocracy," said Col. William Henry Huff, Chicago Negro attorney and Chief Counsel of the Abolish Peonage Committee of the International Labor Defense, as a Chicago Federal Grand Jury voted an eleven-page indictment today accusing W. T. Cunningham and his attorney, Hamilton McWhorter, of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, with conspiracy to hold persons in peonage (defined as [illegible] for debt') and slavery.

"Our 20-month fight to bring the question of peonage violations before the Federal court in Chicago," continued Huff, "is a companion fight to the nation-wide struggle to pass the anti-Poll-tax and anti-lynching bills and the fight of John L. Lewis to lead the way toward smashing the wage-differential. Each is a frontal attack on that exploitation of Negro and white workers that has been protected by the Solid Bourbon South. We are all fighting toward realization of that great doctrine of 'equal rights' written into our U. S. Constitution and reasserted by Abraham Lincoln in his Emancipation Proclamation."

WOULDN'T GIVE UP

Since September, 1939, Col. Huff and the Abolish Peonage Committee of the International Labor Defense have overcome many obstacles in their efforts to secure prosecution of W. T. Cunningham and his agents. The case was "dropped" after a U. S. District Attorney in Georgia "declined prosecution." Later, the Federal Bureau of Investigation twice informed the Abolish Peonage Committee that the case was being carried "as closed in our files." Twice broad delegations of leaders from all over America met in Washington to join the Abolish Peonage Committee in demanding a "reopening" and a vigorous prosecution of the cases.

"But we just wouldn't give up," said Col. Huff.

Other organizations whose leaders participated in these efforts to secure prosecution were the Negro Elks, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Lawyers Guild, and the National Negro Congress.

"There is only the beginning of our campaign to abolish peonage and slavery from America," said Bob Wirtz, secretary of the committee and Midwest representative of the International Labor Defense. "The White Georgia Baptist convention has reported that more persons are held today in the bond of peonage than were held in slavery before the Civil War, and we call upon every democracy-loving American to demand that every Cunningham and McWhorter be brought to justice by the U. S. Government."

"In addition, we pledge our wholehearted support to every other victim of this pernicious institution of bondage and in turn ask the financial and moral support of all who want to join in this fight.

"We have demonstrated our ability to overcome every obstacle including reluctance to act on the part of government officials, and we urge the people of America to help us fight on toward victory over every peonage owner and slave holder. Funds to carry out this work and other indications of support should be sent to the Abolish Peonage Committee, Room, 305, 231 South Wells, Chicago.

"Our slogan—ABOLISH PEONAGE—must reverberate through the lead. This is truly the fight for a living democracy in America."

JUN 4 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

GEORGIA PEONAGE

Twenty months of a relentless fight by Col. William Henry Huff against peonage, resulted in a smashing victory when a Chicago federal grand jury voted an 11-page indictment, last week, accusing W. T. Cunningham and his attorney, Hamilton McWhorter, of Oglethorpe county, Georgia, with conspiracy to hold persons in peonage and slavery.

The indictment charged that for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantations, inducing them to com[illegible] work [illegible] promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off the chain gang. Once on the plantation, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps and by causing them to be placed on a Georgia chain gang if they attempted to run away.

In furtherance of the conspiracy both Cunningham and his attorney, McWhorter, came to Chicago in 1939, with extradition warrants and attempted to arrest three Negroes who had escaped from the plantations. The extradition, after a hearing at Springfield, was denied.

The case of Cunningham's plantations has been under investigation by the Department of Justice for some time and numerous complaints have been received from various parts of the country of his brutality toward his Negro help.

Although Col. Huff led the fight, victory was made possible by the unfailing assistance he received from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Abolish Peonage committee of the International Labor Defense, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Negro Congress, and the Negro Elks.

It required the consolidated influence of all these organizations to force the Department of Justice to act. The victory in the Cunningham case shows how much can be accomplished through coordinated collective action. But this is not all. We have just begun to fight. While peonage has been dealt a mortal blow in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, there are countless parallel cases which are escaping the eyes of justice. The White Georgia Baptist convention has reported that more persons are held in the bond of peonage than were held in slavery before the Civil war. We must fight vigorously and continuously to rid America of this evil that is plaguing this democracy. Moreover, we must fight against the existence of poll-tax which makes it possible for peonage to flourish in many of the southern states.

JUN 14 1941

35h-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

JAN 1 9 1941

Charges FBI Has Refused To Probe Georgia Peonage Cases

CHICAGO—(A N P)—Stirred by failure of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to press charges of peonage in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, despite evidence against Landowners, Attorney William Henry Huff, chief counsel for the Abolish Peonage committee, last week wrote to Attorney General Robert H. Jackson in Washington, outlining the committee's complaints and asking that the department of justice take immediate steps to prosecute the case.

In his communication Huff reminded the attorney general that facts in the case had been reported to his office 14 months before and charged FBI agents assigned to the investigation with "whitewashing this landowner."

Reviewing sensational charges of peonage and brutality turned over to governmental officials, Huff said:

"As chief counsel for the Abolish Peonage committee I have laid before the department of justice a concrete case of peonage—slavery against certain men of Oglethorpe county, Georgia, together with conspiracy to take persons back to a condition of peonage-slavery. Like Lot of old, the department of justice lingers while the FBI, that set of men glued to America's pocket book, seem to act as attorneys for those charged with the operation of peonage farms. They seem to spend more time knocking the one man in Georgia who was brave enough to risk his life by reporting to their office at the Healy building in Atlanta, than they spend trying to ferret out the facts.

"I have in my files statements as Voltaire said: 'Man is neither master of his life nor his fate; he can but offer to his fellow man his efforts to diminish human suffering; he can but offer to God his indomitable faith in the growth of liberty.'

Former Georgian Contends G-Men Have Ignored Evidence

"Conditions similar to these Oglethorpe county, Georgia, conditions prompted Victor Hugo to write 'Les Miserables.'

"I was born in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, and in that county I have seen with my own eyes bloodhounds eating the flesh from the ankles of defenseless Negroes who were attempting to escape from a condition of peonage-slavery, involuntary servitude! I have also seen a Negro hitched to a buggy along side a horse and two men riding in the buggy whipping the Negro to make him keep step with the horse. God knows I have seen this with my own eyes! We need a change in Oglethorpe county, Georgia....we need a change, we need a change."

to how this man is usually investigated by this guardian of American liberties, the FBI that wil make the hair stand up and wave on a dead man's head. I, myself, would hesitate to believe them were they not told by different persons who knew not that the same evidence was being given simultaneously by other witnesses to and other persons in a different room, and had I not seen and heard the counterpart of the selfsame conduct on the part of this institution, the FBI.

"These are just some of the hundreds of things that just happened in connection with the reported brutalities of this landowner and his gang in Oglethorpe county Georgia. Thomas Jefferson said in connection with a similar condition: 'I shudder when I think of a just God!' Immortal Lincoln said: 'This country cannot long endure half slave and half free.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
May 30, 1941

Georgia Planter Denies Charges Of 'Slavery' Plot

Chicago, May 30—(AP)—"It's just some of that Chicago stuff."

That's how Hamilton McWhorter, former president of the Georgia State Senate, disposed of the news that he and William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe County (Georgia) planter, had been indicted here yesterday on charges of conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

They were accused by a Federal Grand Jury, acting under the Civil Rights Statute, of attempting to deprive six Negroes, now in Chicago, of their rights under the Thirteenth Amendment, which guarantees freedom from slavery.

At his home in Lexington, Ga., McWhorter declared there was no foundation for the indictment. Cunningham, also living in Lexington, said there was "no basis" for the charges and declined to comment further.

The indictment alleged Cunningham and McWhorter came to Chicago in 1939 with extradition warrants for three Negroes who had left Cunningham's plantation and were charged with burglary. The Government charged the purpose of the defendants was to return the Negroes to "peonage and slavery" on the plantation.

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
May 30, 1941

Chicago Jury Accuses Two Of Peonage

Georgia Plantation Owner And Lawyer Face Charges

CHICAGO, May 29 (AP)—Two Georgians, William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe County planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington lawyer and former president of the Georgia Senate—were named in Federal indictments today charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

The rare action was brought under the civil rights statute and charged the defendants conspired to deprive six Negroes, now in Chicago, of their civil rights under the Thirteenth Amendment which guarantees freedom from slavery.

A statement from the District Attorney's office said the indictment charged that "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantations, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off of the chain gang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps and causing them to be imprisoned or sent to a Georgia chain gang if they attempted to run away."

The indictment charged that Cunningham, as complainant, and McWhorter, as his attorney, came to Chicago in 1939 with extradition warrants and attempted to arrest three Negroes who has escaped from Cunningham's plantation. The three were charged with burglary but the indictment alleged that the sole purpose of the defendants was to return the Negroes to peonage and slavery.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
May 31, 1941

ACCUSED OF PEONAGE— Hamilton McWhorter (above) of Lexington, Ga., lawyer and former president of the Georgia Senate, and William T. Cunningham, Oglethorpe County, Ga., planter, were named in Federal indictments in Chicago charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery." The charges were based on the claims of six former Georgia Negroes, now in Chicago.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Indict Two Georgians For Peonage

MAY 30 1941

Planter and Former State Senator Are Named in Federal Charge

CHICAGO, May 29.—Two Georgians—William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe County planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington lawyer and former president of the Georgia Senate—were named in federal indictments today charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

The action was brought under the civil rights statute and charged the defendants conspired to deprive six colored persons, now in Chicago, of their civil rights under the Thirteenth Amendment which guarantees freedom from slavery.

MAY 30 1941

Today's indictments climaxed a three-year fight by the Chicago office of the International Labor Defense to bring the indicted men to trial for peonage.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

INDICT TWO IN SLAVERY

Planter And Former Head Of Georgia Senate Are Accused In Chicago

CHICAGO, Ill.—Two prominent white Georgians, William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe County planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington lawyer and former president of the Georgia Senate, were named in Federal indictments on Thursday charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

JUN 7 1941

The three counts in the indictment carry a maximum penalty of fourteen years imprisonment and $25,000 fine on conviction. The action was brought under the civil rights statute of 1870 and charged the two Georgians with conspiracy to deprive six Negroes, now here, of their civil rights under the 13th Amendment which guarantees freedom from slavery.

A statement issued by the District Attorney's office said the indictment charges that " for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantation, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off the chain gang. Once on the plantations the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps and causing them to be imprisoned or sent to a Georgia chain gang if they attempted to run away."

Chicago Has Jurisdiction

District Attorney J. Albert Woll said the Federal Court in this district had jurisdiction because of overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy allegedly committed in Chicago .

The indictment charged that Cunningham and McWhorter came to Chicago in 1939 with extradition warrants and attempted to arrest three Negroes who had escaped from Cunningham's Sandy Cross plantation. The trio was charged with burglary but the indictment alleged that the sole purpose of the defendants was to return the Negroes to peonage and slavery.

The District Attorney said he understood the crime charged against the Negroes—Otis Woods, Doc Woods and Solomon McCannon—was the theft of two bushels of corn from Cunningham's barn in December, 1939, but that they had remained on the plantation for a year after the alleged theft and Cunningham did not cause their indictment until after they had fled.

The late Governor Henry Horner denied their extradition to Georgia after the case was fought by Attorney William Henry Huff, who subsequently founded the Abolish Peonage Committee to carry on the fight.

JUN 7 1941

District Attorney Woll said that Edward Raines, now a private in the U.S. Army; Clyde Smith and Ella Smith, also were named as fugitives and that Cunningham sought to cause their arrest also in Chicago although he had no warrants for them.

The District Attorney's statement also said that "the case of Cunningham's plantation has been under investigation by the Department of Justice for some time and numerous complaints have been received from various parts of the country of his brutality toward his Negro help. Working hours on the plantations are from dawn to dark with an hour for a noon meal. The Negroes receive no salaries, but are fed from Cunningham's commissary rations of fat-back and meal."

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

U.S. INDICTMENT BROUGHT AGAINST PAIR AT CHICAGO

JUN 7 1941

One of Defendants is Former President of The Georgia Senate

CHICAGO. — Two white Georgians were named in Federal indictments, Thursday, charging conspiracy to "hold Negroes in a condition of peonage and slavery."

The white men were William T. Cunningham, an Oglethorpe County planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington lawyer and former president of the Georgia Senate.

A statement from the district attorney's office said the indictment charged that "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantation, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and by getting them out of jail or off the chain gang.

JUN 7 1941

"Once on the plantation, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps causing them to be imprisoned or sent to a Georgia chain gang if they attempted to run away."

The rare action was brought under the civil rights statute and charged the defendants conspired to deprive six Negroes, now in Chicago, of their civil rights under the Thirteenth Amendment, which guarantees freedom from slavery.

The three counts in the indictment carry a maximum penalty, on conviction, of 14 years' imprisonment and $25,000 fine.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Two Georgians Face Charges Of Peonage

AUG 31 1941

James C. Champion, prominent Worth county farmer, and W. V. Tomlinson, foreman of the Pine Lawn turpentine camp near Valdosta, have been arrested under federal peonage indictments returned Aug. 21, the U. S. district attorney's office announced yesterday.

The men are now free under $2.500 bonds, awaiting trial, Assistant U. S. District Attorney John Cowart said. Champion will be tried in federal court at Albany, during the term beginning the first Monday in October, and Tomlinson's case has been set for trial at Valdosta, during a court term which will open the third Monday in September, the prosecutor said.

AUG 31 1941

A six count indictment charged Champion with holding in peonage and returning to peonage Negro farm hands, Cowart said. He announced that Tomlinson was accused in two counts of a similar offense involving white turpentine workers.

35h-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Law Faces Test In Washington

Man Convicted Under Obscure State Statute

The Supreme Court of the United States will review the case of a young Negro who was sentenced to eight months in prison because he refused to work on a Wilkinson county farm in payment of a $19 debt. Atlanta attorneys were advised Monday.

JUN 3 1941

The convicted man, Ira Taylor, was convicted a year ago under an obscure Georgia statute which sets up misdemeanor punishment for any debtor who refuses to work out his obligation or pay back the money to his creditor.

35h

CLAIM LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The high court will review the case because of the defense counsel's contention that the peonage law is in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment, which liberated slaves, and is therefore unconstitutional.

A transcript of the trial reveals that Taylor lived on the farm of R. L. Hardie, white, in Wilkinson county. Early last year Hardie swore out a warrant for Taylor's arrest and lent him $19 with which to pay out of jail. Taylor agreed to work for the white man, according to the testimony, in payment of the debt, and then refused because of alleged illness.

Upon prosecution by the white man, Taylor was sentenced to eight months because of alleged fraud.

Leonard Haas, of Atlanta, and T. T. Purdon, of Sparta, lawyers for Taylor argue that the Georgia statute says there is presumptive evidence of fraud if a debtor does not pay back a debt or work it out according to agreement. They appealed the case to the Georgia supreme court, which upheld the statute on the ground that the law called for "punishment for fraud" and did not affect peonage.

GEORGIA PEONAGE DEFINED

Under Georgia law, peonage is described as forcing a debtor to work for a creditor in payment of an obligation. Because Hardie is alleged to have attempted to require Taylor to work out the payment of the $19, defense counsel is contending that Taylor's imprisonment was in violation of the antislavery or Thirteenth Amendment.

JUN 3 1941

The two statutes in question and under which Taylor was convicted were enacted in Georgia in 1903. Florida is the only other southern state with a similar statute.

JUN 3 1941

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Peonage Laid To 2 Georgians

AUG 31 1941

MACON, Ga., Aug. 30.—(AP)—Assistant United States District Attorney John Cowart disclosed today the arrests of James C. Champion, Worth county farmer, and W. V. Tomlinson, foreman of a turpentine camp near Valdosta, on peonage charges.

In separate cases, Cowart said, the men were indicted by a federal grand jury here August 21. Each man posted a $2,500 appearance bond. They are charged with enslaving certain persons for alleged indebtedness.

AUG 31 1941

Cowart said Tomlinson was charged with holding white persons in peonage, while Champion was charged with holding Negroes.

Trial of Tomlinson has been set for the September term of Middle District Federal court in Valdosta, and that of Champion for the October term at Albany.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

IT'S THE LAW:

Round Won In Fight Against Peonage

35

JUL 10 1941

AN important victory has recently been won on the legal front in the struggle for full democracy and an American standard of living in the South. This victory is the indictment of a Georgia plantation owner and his lawyer by a federal grand jury in Chicago on charges of "peonage."

JUL 10 1941

Not many people, even in the South, know what peonage is and what the law has to say about it. Yet this subject is of the first importance for the whole South.

Peonage is a form of slavery. It is slavery accomplished by forcing a person to work out a debt. Its name comes from its resemblance to the system of agriculture under which the "peons" lived in Old Mexico. But any case where a person is compelled to work against his will because he owes someone money, is "peonage," whether anybody calls the victim a "peon" or not.

THE 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution prohibits all forms of slavery in the United States. It applies as much to peonage as it does to "chattel slavery," in which the master owns the person of the slave as property.

City folks don't know much about peonage. But they can tell you all about it down on the cotton plantation.

The Southern plantation owners lost a lot of valuable property when Negro slavery was abolished after the Civil War. As soon as they regained their political power, they set to work trying to bring slavery back in under new names.

The most effective system that they invented for this purpose works like this:

The tenant or sharecropper, when he starts in to make his crop, has no money. He is forced to get advances from the landlord for seed and for fertilizer. The landlord charges him illegal and usurious interest on these advances—interest often running as high as 50 or 55 per cent, according to government reports. The tenant or cropper also has to eat and feed his family until the crop is made. So he buys on credit at the landlord's store and gets charged fancy prices plus carrying charges. In one way or another, the landlord forces him into debt. Often the landlord adds to this open extortion a little quiet doctoring of the books. This is safe and easy cheating, because the tenant hasn't enough education to check up on it or enough money to get a lawyer to take it to court.

When it is all balanced up at the end of the year, the tenant discovers that, instead of getting paid anything for his crop, the landlord gets it all and the tenant owes him more money besides. Then the landlord will "righteously" take the position that the tenant cannot leave until he works out the debt, which means never because the same thing will happen the next year. Cases have been reported where the landlord actually hired armed guards to watch the tenants and to shoot them if they attemp to escape. Another method is, when a tenant gets away, to have him arrested on a trumped up charge and brought back.

JUL 10 1941

THIS is peonage as it is practiced today in large parts of the South. If you think this form of slavery is anything rare or unusual, read what the Baptist Church of Georgia had to say in a recent convention resolution:

"Peonage or debt slavery has by no means disappeared from our land. There are more white people affected by this diabolical practice than were slave holders; there are more Negroes held by these debt slavers than were actually owned as slaves before the (Civil) War . . . The method is the only thing which has changed."

This, according to the Chicago federal grand jury, is the kind of plantation run by William Toliver Cunningham at Lexington, Ga. Three Negro hands, according to the indictment, escaped and fled to Chicago and Cunningham, to secure their return, had them arrested in Chicago on burglary warrants.

A law by Congress in 1867, for the purpose of enforcing the 13th (anti-slavery) Amendment, makes it a felony to hold a person in peonage or cause his return to peonage. That law is still in effect. It is now Section 444 of Title 18 of the United States Code and reads as follows:

JUL 10 1941

"Whoever holds, arrests, returns or causes to be held, arrested, or returned, or in any manner aids in the arrest or return of any person to a condition of peonage, shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."

35h-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Law Faces Test In Washington

Man Convicted Under Obscure State Statute

JUN 3 1941

The Supreme Court of the United States will review the case of a young Negro who was sentenced to eight months in prison because he refused to work on a Wilkinson county farm in payment of a $19 debt. Atlanta attorneys were advised Monday.

The convicted man, Ira Taylor, was convicted a year ago under an obscure Georgia statute which sets up misdemeanor punishment for any debtor who refuses to work out his obligation or pay back the money to his creditor.

CLAIM LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The high court will review the case because of the defense counsel's contention that the peonage law is in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment, which liberated slaves, and is therefore unconstitutional.

A transcript of the trial reveals that Taylor lived on the farm of R. L. Hardie, white, in Wilkinson county. Early last year Hardie swore out a warrant for Taylor's arrest and lent him $19 with which to pay out of jail. Taylor agreed to work for the white man, according to the testimony, in payment of the debt, and then refused because of alleged illness.

Upon prosecution by the white man, Taylor was sentenced to eight months because of alleged fraud.

Leonard Haas, of Atlanta, and T. T. Purdon, of Sparta, lawyers for Taylor argue that the Georgia statute says there is presumptive evidence of fraud if a debtor does not pay back a debt or work it out according to agreement. They appealed the case to the Georgia supreme court, which upheld the statute on the ground that the law called for "punishment for fraud" and did not affect peonage.

GEORGIA PEONAGE DEFINED

Under Georgia law, peonage is described as forcing a debtor to work for a creditor in payment of an obligation. Because Hardie is alleged to have attempted to require Taylor to work out the payment of the $19, defense counsel is contending that Taylor's imprisonment was in violation of the antislavery or Thirteenth Amendment.

The two statutes in question and under which Taylor was convicted were enacted in Georgia in 1903. Florida is the only other southern state with a similar statute.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Peonage Laid To Georgians

AUG 31 1941

MACON, Ga., Aug. 30.—(AP)—Assistant United States District Attorney John Cowart disclosed today the arrests of James C. Champion, Worth county farmer, and W. V. Tomlinson, foreman of a turpentine camp near Valdosta, on peonage charges.

In separate cases, Cowart said, the men were indicted by a federal grand jury here August 21. Each man posted a $2,500 appearance bond. They are charged with enslaving certain persons for alleged indebtedness.

Cowart said Tomlinson was charged with holding white persons in peonage, while Champion was charged with holding Negroes.

Trial of Tomlinson has been set for the September term of Middle District Federal court in Valdosta, and that of Champion for the October term at Albany.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

IT'S THE LAW:

Round Won In Fight Against Peonage

JUL 10 1941

AN important victory has recently been won on the legal front in the struggle for full democracy and an American standard of living in the South. This victory is the indictment of a Georgia plantation owner and his lawyer by a federal grand jury in Chicago on charges of "peonage."

Not many people, even in the South, know what peonage is and what the law has to say about it. Yet this subject is of the first importance for the whole South.

Peonage is a form of slavery. It is slavery accomplished by forcing a person to work out a debt. Its name comes from its resemblance to the system of agriculture under which the "peons" lived in Old Mexico. But any case where a person is compelled to work against his will because he owes someone money, is "peonage," whether anybody calls the victim a "peon" or not.

THE 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution prohibits all forms of slavery in the United States. It applies as much to peonage as it does to "chattel slavery," in which the master owns the person of the slave as property.

City folks don't know much about peonage. But they can tell you all about it down on the cotton plantation.

The Southern plantation owners lost a lot of valuable property when Negro slavery was abolished after the Civil War. As soon as they regained their political power, they set to work trying to bring slavery back in under new names.

The most effective system that they invented for this purpose works like this:

The tenant or sharecropper, when he starts in to make his crop, has no money. He is forced to get advances from the landlord for seed and for fertilizer. The landlord charges him interest and usurious interest on these advances—interest often running as high as 50 or 55 per cent, according to government reports. The tenant or cropper also has to eat and feed his family until the crop is made. So he buys on credit at the landlord's store and gets charged fancy prices plus carrying charges. In one way or another, the landlord forces him into debt. Often the landlord adds to this open extortion a little quiet doctoring of the books. This is safe and easy cheating, because the tenant hasn't enough education to check up on it or enough money to get a lawyer to take it to court.

When it is all balanced up at the end of the year, the tenant discovers that, instead of getting paid anything for his crop, the landlord gets it all and the tenant owes him more money besides. Then the landlord will "righteously" take the position that the tenant cannot leave until he works out the debt, which means never because the same thing will happen the next year. Cases have been reported where the landlord actually hired armed guards to watch the tenants and to shoot them if they attemp to escape. Another method is, when a tenant gets away, to have him arrested on a trumped up charge and brought back.

THIS is peonage as it is practiced today in large parts of the South. If you think this form of slavery is anything rare or unusual, read what the Baptist Church of Georgia had to say in a recent convention resolution:

"Peonage or debt slavery has by no means disappeared from our land. There are more white people affected by this diabolical practice than were slave holders; there are more Negroes held by these debt slavers than were actually owned as slaves before the (Civil) War . . . The method is the only thing which has changed."

This, according to the Chicago federal grand jury, is the kind of plantation run by William Toliver Cunningham at Lexington, Ga. Three Negro hands, according to the indictment, escaped and fled to Chicago and Cunningham, to secure their return, had them arrested in Chicago on burglary warrants.

A law by Congress in 1867, for the purpose of enforcing the 13th (anti-slavery) Amendment, makes it a felony to hold a person in peonage or cause his return to peonage. That law is still in effect. It is now Section 444 of Title 18 of the United States Code and reads as follows:

"Whoever holds, arrests, returns or causes to be held, arrested, or returned, or in any manner aids in the arrest or return of any person to a condition of peonage, shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia Peonage Case Is Dropped As Judge Denies Plea Against Cunningham

Rules Planter Will Not Have To Stand Trial

AUG 29 1941

Indictment Shows Negroes Were Mistreated

MACON, Ga.— (SNS) — W. T. Cunningham, white planter, and Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington attorney and former president of the state senate, do not have to stand trial on the charge of conspiring to hold colored men and women in peonage and slavery, Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver ruled Thursday.

Charges against the two Oglethorpe county men were returned under a Chicago indictment.

The indictment was obtained by William Henry Huff, Chicago attorney, who contends that efforts were made by Cunningham and McWhorter to return Negroes from Chicago to the Cunningham plantation. Huff had sought to have the trial held in federal court in Chicago.

Judge Deaver's ruling called for discharge of the defendants and court attaches said this meant the two white men were safe from any further prosecution on the charge as long as they remain in the middle district of Georgia.

The fight to bring Cunningham and McWhorter to trial lasted several years. Attorney Huff was able to get affidavits from former Cunningham farm workers who accused the white planter of beating and shooting some of the colored hands.

AUG 29 1941

WILL BE DROPPED

Custom indicates the indictment probably will be dropped the court attaches added. Judge Deaver said it charged nothing but conspiracy and that conspiracy had not been shown. His decision followed a hearing at Athens last Monday.

The jurist said that in going to Chicago to seek return of Negroes who formerly worked on his farm, "Cunningham may have had a bad motive but there is no more reason to think he was in a conspiracy with McWhorter than that he was in a conspiracy with all the state and county officers."

The decision said that "if persons are being held in a condition of peonage on the Cunningham farm, he should be indicted and convicted, but the government should not link McWhorter with him in a nonexistent conspiracy, in order to obtain jurisdiction in another district and to secure removal to that district for the trial."

AUG 29 1941

The Georgians were indicted in Chicago last May, where the district attorney's office said the true bill charged "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantation, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and getting them out of jail or off the chain gang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps."

The indictment was returned after three Negroes who had succeeded in resisting extradition worked on Cunningham's farm to Oglethorpe county, where they were charged with burglary.

McWhorter told Judge Deaver he had acted as local counsel for the Oglethorpe county sheriff and had been asked to help prepare a requisition for extradition of the Negroes. At the Chicago hearing, he represented the county.

At the Athens hearing, Cunningham testified he never had kept Negroes in servitude and several Oglethorpe countians supported his testimony.

AUG 29 1941

The indictment was brought under the civil rights statute charging conspiracy to deprive six Negroes, then in Chicago, of their civil rights under the thirteenth amendment, which gaurantees freedom from slavery.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Georgians Win Freedom In Chicago Peonage Case

AUG 29 1941

Two Oglethorpe countians indicted in Chicago for conspiracy to hold Negroes in peonage and slavery won their freedom yesterday, when U. S. District Judge Bascom S. Deaver refused to order their removal to Chicago for trial.

They were Hamilton McWhorter, Lexington attorney and former president of the state senate, and W. T. Cunningham, a farmer. Judge Deaver ordered both defendants discharged.

Court attaches said the action meant the men were safe as long as they remained in the middle district of Georgia, and explained that if custom is followed the indictment against them will be dropped.

'NOW OLD MAN

In announcing his ruling, Judge Deaver said of Cunningham: "There is no more reason to think he was in a conspiracy with McWhorter than that he was in a conspiracy with all the state and county officers."

Of the attorney, he said: "McWhorter is now in his old age and is inflicted with a serious heart ailment, and to remove him to a distant district for trial, without any substantial ground for prosecution, would work on him a financial and physical hardship which it would be difficult, if at all possible, for him to bear."

The decision said that "if persons are being held in a condition of peonage on the Cunningham farm, he should be indicted and convicted, but the government should not link McWhorter with him in a non-existent conspiracy, in order to obtain jurisdiction in another district and to secure removal to that district for the trial."

AUG 29 1941

LASHING CHARGED

The Georgias were indicted in Chicago last May, where the district attorney's office said the true bill charged "for many years Cunningham had enslaved Negroes on his plantation, inducing them to come to work by promises of wages and getting them out of jail or off the chain gang. Once on the plantations, the Negroes were no longer free. They received no wages and Cunningham instilled in them the fear of running away by lashing them with straps."

The indictment was returned after three Negroes who had worked on Cunningham's farm succeeded in resisting extradition to Oglethorpe county, where they were charged with burglary.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Attack Georgia Peonage Law

DEC 20 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Department of Justice has filed a brief of amicus curiae in the U. S. Supreme Court attacking the Georgia Labor Contract law, which, it maintains, coerces laborers into servitude and peonage in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The brief was filed last week in support of the appeal of Ira Taylor who was convicted under the Georgia law, the NAACP announced.

The interest of the federal government in this case stems from a provision of the Georgia law sanctioning the conviction of a laborer for "cheating and swindling" merely upon showing that he received an advance from an employer and then failed to carry out a contract for personal services without good cause, according to the Justice Department. It stated that the Supreme Court in 1911 held a similar Alabama statute to be unconstitutional on grounds that it created a condition of involuntary servitude.

In this case Taylor was charged with receiving $19.50 in advance on an agreement to assist in the construction of a house. His employer accused him of cheating and swindling when he later failed to report for work.

351-1941

ALABAMA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Ala. Strike Settlement Refutes Claim Races Won't Work Together

MAR 1 1941

NEW YORK — The recent settlement of a strike at the Alabama Dry Dock company at Mobile, Ala., where workers of both races are employed, was cited this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as an illuminating refutation of the spurious claim advanced by many industrialists who refuse to hire Negroes because "white employes won't work with them."

MAR 1 1941

The strike, according to the N.A.A.C.P., involved 3,500 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, a CIO affiliate, and lasted 10 days.

Negro and white members of the union benefitted from a settlement, which union officials said involved general wage increases.

According to union officials, a minimum wage of 50 cents per hour was established which meant a 15-cent-per-hour increase for many of the colored laborers. The higher classifications received an increase of four cents per hour.

Officials of the union described the settlement as presenting "the highest minimum wage for unskilled labor in any large industrial plant in the Gulf."

The Daily Worker
New York. N. Y.

White Miners Strike in Alabama to Aid Negroes

FEB 27 1941

Birmingham, Ala.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

I work in the Edgewater coal mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company, a part of U. S. Steel. Although a majority of the workers are members of the United Mine Workers, there are still a good many members of the A. F. of L. and some non-union members.

Last week, the assistant mine foreman, a white man, struck a Negro coal miner with his fist so hard that some say it broke his jaw.

FEB 27 1941

The mine committee made up of two Negroes and one white, tried to see the superintendent. But he refused to see the committee.

UNITY

Sunday morning, we called a special meeting of the miners. Almost all of the workers attended, including members of the UMWA, the A. F. of L. and the non-union miners. There was unity between all groups.

One A. F. of L. member said, "We are with you 100 per cent. If he hits one of your men, he will hit one of ours, too."

FEB 27 1941

FEB 27 1941

A committee was named to represent all groups in the mine, white and Negro, and representing UMW, AFL and non-union. This committee went to the superintendent, but was also refused permission to see him.

We then called another meeting and took a strike vote. So we have come out on strike and will stay out until this matter is settled.

A district representative of the United Mine Workers has come out and is negotiating with the company now.

D. C.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Alabama Negroes, Work With Whites

FEB 28 1941

New York—The recent settlement of a strike at the Alabama Dry Dock Company at Mobile, Ala., where Negroes and whites are employed, was cited today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as an illuminating refutation of the spurious claim advanced by many industrialists who refuse to hire Negroes because "white employees won't work with them."

The strike, according to the N. A. A. C. P., involved 3,500 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, a CIO affiliate, and lasted ten days. Negro and white members of the union benefitted from the settlement, which union officials said involved general wage increases. According to union officials, a minimum wage of fifty cents per hour was established which meant a fifteen cent per hour increase for many of the colored laborers. The higher classifications received an increase of four cents per hour. Officials of the union described the settlement as representing "the highest minimum wage for unskilled labor in any large industrial plant in the Gulf."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Indians Find Old Jim Crow in South Africa

FEB 22 1941

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—(ANP)—This city's Indian colony is in a great furore as result of a series of insults heaped upon a group of Indian students who stopped here recently, en route to Calcutta, from a trip to England.

Spokesman for the students was D. K. Basu, prominent barrister of Calcutta. So great was the indignation aroused over the treatment accorded Basu and companions in all places of business catering to the general public, that a protest was made to General Jan Smuts, premier of the Union of South Africa.

Barred from Restaurants

"We entered a restaurant," said Mr. Basu in relating their experiences, "but the waiter there asked us to clear out, as dark people could not have drinks there. Similarly we tried in ten or twelve restaurants, but without success. In one, the waiter did not object to serving us, but the manager was against it.

"Nearly all the places the reply was that the law of the country would not allow them to serve a brown man, and we were asked to go to the native quarters.

Cinemas for Whites

"Then we tried to go to a cinema. The girl at the counter asked us to wait and sent for the manager. The manager asked us about our nationality, and on hearing that we were Indians, he said he would not allow us to enter.

"Even the urinals are specially reserved for Europeans, and we were not allowed to enter there either. We finally went to the native quarters, but we found them dirty and the streets poorly lighted."

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

ALABAMA STRIKE SETTLED; WHITES NEGROES WORKING

MAR 1 1941

NEW YORK CITY—The recent settlement of a strike at the Alabama Dry Dock Company at Mobile, Ala., where Negroes and whites are employed, was cited this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as an illuminating refutation of the spurious claim advanced by many industrialists who refuse to hire Negroes because "white employees won't work with them."

MAR 1 1941

The strike, according to the N. A. A. C. P., involved 3,500 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, a CIO affiliate, and lasted ten days. Negro and white members of the union benefitted from a settlement, which union officials said involved general wage increases.

According to union officials, a minimum wage of fifty cents per hour was established which meant a fifteen-cent-per-hour increase for many of the colored laborers. The higher classifications received an increase of our cents per hour. Officials of the union described the settlement as representing "the highest minimum wage for unskilled labor in any industrial plant in the Gulf."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Alabama Proves Races Will Work Together

MAR 3 1941

NEW YORK—(SNS)—The recent settlement of a strike at the Alabama Dry Dock company at Mobile, Ala., where Negroes and whites are employed was cited by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as an illuminating refutation of the spurious claim advanced by many industrialists who refuse to hire Negroes because "white employees won't work with them."

The strike, according to the NAACP, involved 3,500 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, a CIO affiliate, and lasted ten days. Negro and white members of the union benefited from a settlement, which union officials said involved general wage increases.

According to union officials, a minimum wage of fifty cents per hour was established which meant a fifteen-cent-per hour increase for many of the colored laborers. The higher classifications received an increase of four cents per hour.

MAR 3 1941

Officials of the union described the settlement as representing "the highest minimum wage for unskilled labor in any large industrial plant in the Gulf.'

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Alabama Workers Spurn Jim-Crow and Win Strike

FEB 24 1941

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 23.—The recent settlement of a strike at the Alabama Dry Dock Company here, where Negroes and whites are employed, is an illuminating refutation of the spurious claim advanced by many industrialists who refuse to hire Negroes because "white employes won't work with them."

The strike, involved 3,500 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, a CIO affiliate, and lasted ten days. Negro and white members of the union benefited from a settlement, which union officials said involved general wage increases.

According to union officials, a minimum wage of fifty cents per hour was established which meant a fifteen-cent-per-hour increase for many of the colored laborers. The higher classifications received an increase of four cents per hour. Officials of the union described the settlement as representing "the highest minimum wage for unskilled labor in any large industrial plant in the Gulf."

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Ore Miners Win Wage Hour Victory

MAR 27 1941

STEEL WORKERS BACK MINERS IN FIGHT ON WAGE DIFFERENTIAL

Ore miners in the Birmingham district won an important victory in the elimination of "dead work," or unpaid time for leaving and entering the mine, this week while steel workers took courage from the coal miners' fight against the Southern wage differential and brought forward similar demands of their own.

The ore miners' victory, which came in a wage-hour board decision that pay must begin the moment the miner enters the mine and end when he leaves it, instead of for only actual work on the operation deep in the mine shaft, was the result of the miners' own organized fight for removal of this evil. It was not a gift from the wage-hour body, but was won in the mine locals which first raised the demand and then never let it rest until the victory last Saturday.

MAR 27 1941

As a result of the decision the ore miners' union, the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workess, it was announced by Van D. Jones, district representative and press a new demand for unpaid back wages dating from October, 1938. The unpaid sum amounts to more than $1,000,000 in Alabama alone.

When the SWOC negotiations with TCI begin representatives of the ore miners will sit with their union brothers of the steel union to present their demands for wage increases jointly to U. S. Steel profitable southern subsidiary.

Birmingham Ala Age-Herald
March 15, 1941

NEGRO MEMBERS OF UNION TO DINE

Following a dinner for white members of the union several weeks ago, a dinner for Negro members will be held the night of March 30 at the Negro Masonic Temple by the United Wholesale and Warehouse Union, Local 261, CIO, union officials announced. William Mitch, president of District 20, United Mine Workers of America and regional director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, will be guest.

Mitch and other CIO leaders, including Yelverton Cowherd, CIO regional director; Noel Beddow, executive director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee and Van Jones, director of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union, are scheduled to give talks.

The meeting also will be addressed, union officials said, by representative Negroes, including Dr. E. W. Taggart, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; H. D. Coke, newspaper editor; A. D. Shores, attorney and Bishop B. G. Shaw, of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Nashville Tenn Banner
August 12, 1941

Workers Walk Out of Bessemer Pullman Plant

Bessemer, Ala., Aug. 12—(P)—The Bessemer plant of the Pullman-Standard Car Co., employing 1,100 men, was struck today as an unestimated number of workers walked out. The plant has defense railroad orders totalling many millions of dollars.

It was not learned whether the plant was still operating, but about 200 pickets surrounded the buildings. Company officials said "some of the men are working" but did not estimate the number.

The workers, members of the CIO steel workers organizing committee, voted the walkout last night.

Noel Beddow, district SWOC director, said the walkout climaxed a series of "discriminations" against the union, including the discharge of a Negro member of the grievance committee.

Beddow said that efforts to negotiate a union contract at the plant had been met with a company demand for proof of the union's claim to majority membership, and that the SWOC, in reply had petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for an election.

He said about 98 per cent of the employes were union members. Beddow estimated that the plant employed about 1,100 men.

From another source came an unverifiable report that all the Negroes had left the plant, and only a few white men came out.

Deputies patrolled the picket lines, and no violence was reported.

35i-1941

ALABAMA

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

THE CIO HAS FAILED THE NEGRO IN THE SOUTH; 700 WORKERS AT BIRMINGHAM QUIT ORGANIZATION AFTER THREE YEARS TRIAL

APR 19 1941

Negro workers at Houston who boast of their membership in the Congress for Industrial Organization, stating openly that they are joining the CIO to spite certain fellow workers, are making a serious mistake. It is like cutting off the nose to spite the face.

I understand at the Hughes Tool Company where nearly 1,000 Negroes are employed ,there are a small group of Negroes who have preferred the CIO to the Independent Metal Workers Union, a new organization not affiliated with either the CIO or AFL. It replaces the welfare association and the HT club. The welfare association which represented the white workers and the HT club representing the colored, were ordered dissolved by the Labor Board. According to reports the majority of the workers, white and colored, have signed up with the Independent union ,locals No. 1 and No. 2. They have petitioned the Labor Board to be certified the sole bargaining agency asking a contract on work and wage agreements.

AS I SEE IT in the light of past experiences with both the American Federation of Labor and the CIO, the Negro's jobs will be far more secure in the independent union than either the CIO or AFL. In the past the AFL has consistently refused to accept Negroes at Hughes Tool in its membership. And before the CIO was even born, they had formed their independent union. They had no alternative. Now with the reports prevalent that the CIO is dominated by the Communist group and responsible for a great many of the strikes and violence committed in this country, and with prejudice existing between the two rival unions, the AFL and CIO, it is certainly unwise for Negro workers at Hughes Tool or any other industrial center at Houston to sign up with either if they have any other chance to get collective bargaining rights through any other source.

CIO FAIL NEGROES AT BIRMINGHAM

Last week the Associated Negro Press issued a release on how the CIO had failed the Negro steel workers in Birmingham, Alabama after they had given them a trial and paid dues in that organization for three years. Negroes charged according to the release that the CIO had failed to improve their working conditions and get their pay raised as they had promised. Negroes represented 68 per cent of the 700 workers employed in two plants in that city. When a change in the company's policy and management brought about a reclassification of Negro help to the point that all were paid as helpers while performing mechanical work, the workers became dissatisfied and accepted the CIO's proposition with the promise that the union would have them re-classified and given equal opportunity along with white workers.

APR 19 1941

In 1937 through the Negro employes the CIO got the contract and held it for three years. The workers did not get any more wages than required by the Wage-Hour Law though they paid monthly dues.

It is reported that while Negroes were elected to high offices in the union, even to vice president, when it came time for their functioning, the meetings would be postponed rather than have the Negroes preside over the white group.

AS I TOLD A delegation in Detroit over four years ago, the CIO's policies and practices may work in the north on the Negro labor question but it could never work in the south as long as certain customs and practices exist; that the CIO was calculated to do race workers more harm than good; that Negroes who were encouraging the organization in the south were committing suicide for race workers.

Not only are the employing classes in the south prejudiced toward the CIO and determined to fight it to the last ditch before they bargain with it but unfavorable public sentiment is worked up against the organization This atmosphere was created largely by the American Federation of Labor which is fearful that the CIO will capture the Negro and enhance its membership of race workers. It is obvious when propagandists put out that the Communist element of the CIO was promoting social equality and would eventually destroy all traditions regarding races in the south, it will be dangerous for Negroes to line up with the movement. The gain they would get from work and wage conditions through the CIO would be offset by the unpleasant race relations that they have been brought about through establishment of the organization.

APR 19 1941

After all, if the Negro is to make progress or get along in this country, he must maintain a friendly relation with the employing classes and cultivate a favorable sentiment among other racial groups.

APR 19 1941

There are good and well meaning people in the CIO who want to help the Negro. Many want to lift the Negro worker along with the white worker. But, **AS I SEE IT,** if the Negro remains patient and be cautious as to the steps he takes and continue prepare himself to do the job, the time won't be long that conditions will be of such that he will automatically enjoy the privileges as other American workers.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

WHITE AFL UNION IN BIRMINGHAM GOES TO BAT FOR NEGROES; SECURES EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAI WORK HOURS

APR 19 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— ANP) — Labor news of a startling nature was created in this Southern industrial city recently when an A. F. of L. union, officered and led by white men, successfully went to bat for several hundred Negro workers after the CIO had failed to improve Negroes' working conditions over a three-year period.

Demanding equal pay for equal work and the removal of job and training restrictions from Negro steelworkers, the A. F. of L. union, local 539 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, voted to strike against the Ingalls Iron Works here and tie up more than $48,000,000 worth of national defense contracts held by the Ingalls interests here and in Pascagoula, Miss.

The threatened strike was averted by the office of production manager ofter the NAACP had called the situation to the attention of the office of Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant to Sidney Hillman. The union emerged victorious from the dispute after winning 12½ per cent wage increase for the Negro workers and percent increase for the white workers.

APR 19 1941

Workers Reclassified

Of greater significance, however, was the union's action in winning a reclassification of all the workers in the plant—assuring Negroes equal pay for equal work—and also the removal of all bans against Negro workers in the Ingalls Iron Works Apprentice school.

The Negro steel workers, comprising 68 percent of the 700 workers in Ingall's two Birmingham plants, were organized by the CIO in 1937, mainly through the efforts of L. H. Britt, veteran Negro steel worker who is now special representative for the A. F. of L. local. According to Britt, Negro skilled workers in the plant were classified and paid as "helpers" despite the fact that they performed mechanic's work.

"We joined the CIO" Britt said, "because they promised to rectify this situation. They said they would fight for reclassification of all workers so that Negro steel workers would have economic equality. They didn't do this though. And although the CIO held a contract at Ingall's for more than two years, the only raises we Negroes got were those the wages and hours law forced Ingalls to pay".

APR 19 1941

Left CIO For AFL

Last summer, after three vain attempts to force the CIO representatives to raise the question of reclassification with the Ingalls management, the Negro workers went over in a body to the AFL union which agreed to raise this question. In an election ordered by the Nationa Labor Relations Board last September, local 539, supported by the Negro worker, defeated the CIO by a three to one vote as the bargaining agent in the Ingalls plant.

Led by S. T. McDonald, white president, and Britt, special representatives, the AFL union opened negotiations immediately by demanding reclassification of the Negro workers and equal pay for equal work. The management allegedly countered by offering raises of eight to 18 cents an hour for first and second class mechanics (all white) and only a two-cent raise for helpers, all colored.

The union unanimously rejected the counter-offer, however, and the negotiations dragged out for more than five months, with Stanlty Rouds, international representative of the Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers, pressing the union demands.

Counter Offers Refused

Finally in March, Rouds informed the union membership that the Ingalls management had told him flatly that no raises would be granted the Negro workers, although the management again made its former offer to the white mechanics. That night, local 539 voted a strike within 48 hours. OPM immediately rushed a representative to the scene. At the same time, E. W. Taggert, president of the local NAACP, wired national headquarters in New York, which promptly in turn notified Robert

Weaver, Clarence R. Johnson, labor consultant, and Ted Poston, field assistant, were immediately sent to the scene.

APR 19 1941

In subsequent negotiations, the management withdrew its offer and promised a flat six per cent raise to all workers, Negro and white. The union rejected this offer, pointing out that the Negro wage scale was far below the white scale that a six per cent raise would be no victory in their behalf. Six hours later, after continuous negotiation, the union won an offer of 12½ per cent raise for Negroes and a six per cent raise for the whites.

At the same time, the local won its demand for a complete reclassification of all workers and equal pay for equal work. The reclassification will be carried out by the union shop committee within the next 90 days.

Negro workers were especially pleased at the success of the union in opening up the Ingalls apprentice school for Negroes for the first time. Under the agreement, several of the Negro helpers will be automatically enrolled in the apprentice school at once. Other Negro "helpers" will automatically be classified and paid as second class mechanics.

The Ingalls dispute marked the second time within a year that local white AFL trade unionists had gone down the line for Negro workers. Last spring, the organized street car motormen here tied up Birmingham transit system for two days in a sympathy strike in support of the Negro maintenance workers in the street car shops. The company capitulated to the Negro shopmen's demands after the white motormen refused to man their cars.

Southern News Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

COMPANIES FIND GOING HARD IN TRIAL

"Portal To Portal" Wage-Hour Ruling Is Under Attack

Companies attacking Colonel Philip B. Fleming's wage-hour ruling affecting red ore miners are finding the going hard in the second week of the trial in United States District C[illegible] here.

JUL 17 1941

So far only witnesses for the complaining companies have been heard. The ruling complained of provides that a miner's working day begins at the time the worker puts himself at the disposal of the company at or near the portal of the mine; and ends when he returns to the portal at the end of the shift. It is known as the "portal to portal" ruling.

With the witnesses introduced the companies have tried to establish that the ruling is (1) contrary to customs used in the past and (2) that men have accepted pay and signed receipts for work in full under the old customs.

GETS SET-BACK

The companies' attack received a severe set-back Tuesday in the testimony of A. F. Harper, superintendent for Sloss Sheffield Steel and Iron Company 1933-38, and now superintendent for Woodward Iron Company.

Company Attorney E. L. All had established by Harper's testimony, that from 1933 to 1938 in Sloss Mine No. 2 the day began not at the portal but when the miner reached his place of work at the face of the ore itself. Through copies of contracts introduced in the evidence it was shown the men had agreed to continue these same methods of the length of the working day.

JUL 17 1941

WERE ON "TONNAGE"

Crampton Harris, union attorney, established through cross examination of Harper that the time spent in the mine had not been a major consideration to the men, because they were working solely on a tonnage contract and task basis, and got paid only according to the amount of ore put out. It was further shown that "dead work" done by the men—extending tracks, air lines and removal of rock—sometimes took up the whole day of a crew and they would get out only one car to be divided between five men.

Against strenuous opposition of Borden Burr, company attorney, the court gave permission for J. S. Rogers, wage-hour engineer, and George Wheeler, U. S. Labor Department economist, to make surveys of 13 ore mines owned by the companies.

NEGROES ELECTED

It was arranged that one company man and one union man should accompany the government men on these surveys. The unions, which consist of Negro and white workers, elected some Negro and some white representatives. Objections to Negro representatives by company attorneys caused considerable embarrassment, but the Negro representatives, in the interest of harmony, resigned from the posts and white miners were put in their places.

These surveys are to make dust counts and to discover other conditions which miners work. Health and safety are factors in determining the length of the day's work.

Colonel Fleming was in Birmingham Monday and attended the trial for a few hours in company with local Wag[illegible]our Representative Robert T. Amis.

JUL 17 1941

The trial is expected to run for several weeks.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Dixon Pulls Off Militia In T.C.I. Strike

Unions Agree To Return To Work As Leaders Promise No Violence

Workmen Notified

Gen. Ben Smith Withdraws 500 Home Guardsmen At Nod From Governor

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 28—(AP)—Alabama home guardsmen were withdrawn tonight from strike-bound steel mills of the Tennessee, Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, as union sources said the mills would resume operations at 11 p.m. (C. S. T.)

Brig. Gen. Ben Smith, guard commander, ordered the withdrawal after a telephone conference between Gov. Frank M. Dixon and William Mitch, southern director of the Steel Workers Oragnizing Committee (C. I. O.)

The union closed all the company's principal plants last night in protest of the use of the guard at the Ensley works of the T. C. I., which was shut down Friday night by a dispute over incentive pay rates and other grievances.

Approximately 30,000 men were left idle by the strike.

Governor Reassured

Gov. Dixon, in a statement at Montgomery, said Mitch and George T. Baker, president of the Ensley S. W. O. C. local, had assured him "there would be no mass picketing," no intimidation or coercion at the gate, and until the men went back to work, no increase in the number of pickets stationed at the gate."

Upon announcement of the governor's statement, which left withdrawal of the State guardsmen to Smith's discretion, meetings of S. W. O. S. local were called to discuss the proposal to return to work at 11 p.m.

Mitch, Baker and Noel Beddow, executive director of the S. W. O. C., urged full resumption of operations.

The 500 State guardsmen patrolled the various plant entrances for the 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. shifts today, but few workers tried to pass the S. W. O. C. picket line, and there was no effort to operate any of the closed units.

The S. W. O. C. called the walkout in all T. C. I. plants here last night, shutting off approximately 80 per cent of the South's steel production.

Closed were eight blast furnaces, of more than 2,000,000 tons annual capacity, 18 open hearths and three Bessemer converters, rated at approximately 2,500,000 tons annually, and numerous finishing units, including the Fairfield plate mill which supplies most of the plates for Gulf coast ship building.

Maintenance crews for continuous operations were passed through picket lines, and fires were kept in the banked blast furnaces.

The S. W. O. C. voted the general walkout in dramatic last-minute mass meeting last night. The union had demanded the withdrawal of State guardsmen from the Ensley plant, which had been closed Friday night, and the strike decision was made after Gov. Frank M. Dixon flatly refused an S. W. O. C. ultimatum that the troops be disbanded.

Noel Beddow, executive director of the S. W. O. C., and heads of the 12 S. W. O. C. locals in the T. C. I. plants conferred today on the possibility of negotiations for ending the strike, but there was no announcement of results.

35i-1941

ALABAMA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NAME 4 FIRMS AS VIOLATORS OF WAGE CODE

SEP 29 1941

Collectors Union Presents Demands For Risk Groups Approval

(Special to The Chicago Defender)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—J. J. Israel, director, Industrial, Ordinary Insurance Agents, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, said this this week that union contracts have been presented to the Booker T. Washington Burial Insurance company, Protective Industrial Insurance company, the Peoples Burial Aid Company, Inc., all of Birmingham, and the Atlanta Life Insurance company of Atlanta, Ga., for their signatures with reference to salaries and commissions of some four hundred collecting agents and other representatives employed by the four companies.

351

One of the major companies was recently charged with "unfair labor practices" by the agents group and the American Federation of Labor which resulted into an examination by the National Labor Relation Board (Tenth Region), and the findings were presented to the Industrial, Ordinary Insurance Agents officials here, it was said.

While other companies may be examined as a matter of routine, the deadline was set for Friday, Dec. 5, 1941 for the return of the union contracts, after which the organization will "take their own course" if they are not signed officials declared.

Sympathy from the industrial element of the American Federation of Labor has loomed into the picture, and, since the several companies are engaged in "collection programs" for the end of the year, a tie-up of agents might make a possible difference.

SEP 29 1941

The method that will be employed by the agents organization has not been revealed, and why other similar companies are not involved is not known.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Randolph Awaits Action On Pleas

NEW YORK—(ANP)—At least two and possibly three resolutions to be put before the 61st annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in Seattle, Washington, for 11 days beginning Monday, by A. Philip Randolph and Milton P. Webster, delegates from the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, are calculated to expose that organization to criticism by all Negroes and many far-sighted whites. At the same time, President William Green, in light of developments of the past few months, will be confronted with the experience of once again being in an untenable position.

Mr. Randolph, besides being the international president of the union, is also national director of of the Negro March on Washington committee. Mr. Webster the first international vice president, is a member of the Fair Employment Practice committee established under the executive order of President Roosevelt of June 25 barring discrimination in national defense employment. Mr. Green, too, has membership on this committee.

SIX RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions are six in number and include an endorsement of the FEP committee, anti-poll tax legislation, federal anti-lynch bill, lease-lend aid to Ethiopia, support of Great Britain, China, and Russia against Hitler and Hitlerism, and establishment of a trade union committee against discrimination on account of race, color, religion or national origin.

THE first and the last are the ones most likely to draw complaint. Failure of the AFL to give it endorsement to the FEP would in effect nullify whatever usefulness Mr. Green might possess as a member of that committee. There have been almost weekly meetings of the committee since its appointment in early August. Mr. Green is known to have attended very few of these sessions. Many persons have sought to put an interpretation upon the fact that when the group posed for photographers at its first meeting, Mr. Green was the only one who appeared to be avoiding a full view of his face.

REMOVE KNOTTY PROBLEM

On the other hand, in the event that the federation does adopt this resolution it will remove what is presently believed one of the knottier problems so far encountered by Lawrence Cramer, executive secretary for the committee, and that is the question of what to do about unions which refuse to enroll Negroes so that they may be employed in plants where the unions have a closed shop. The questionnaire sent out to affiliated unions last month by President Green to ascertain the attitude of the groups on the race question may be indicative of a changed or modified viewpoint.

Proposal of a committee to act on cases of discrimination may hit a snag too. For 60 years the AFL has faced the race question in one form or another at each convention and has done nothing more than give lip service. At the 1940 convention the porters' union proposed the appointment of an interracial committee to investigate instances of racial discrimination among affiliate unions. Mr. Randolph spoke feeling in its support. The report of the resolutions committee in rejecting it read as follows:

"In lieu of the resolution, your committee recommends that affiliated national and international unions be requested to give the most sincere consideration to policies which will assist to eliminate any tendency to discriminate against workmen because of race, color or creed."

ETHIOPIAN ISSUE

The third resolution with potentialities is the one calling for lease-lend aid to Ethiopia. Thus far the state department, so far as is generally known, has shown little inclination to consider Haile Selassie's kingdom as a beneficiary in this respect. Few people question the vigor with which the emperor's resuscitated army is prosecuting its war effort against the Italian hordes, with the aid of Great Britain. Almost no one denies its need of further aid. The granting to Haiti a few weeks ago of a huge sum under the bill sets a precedent if one is required for black nations. The feeling, however, is that the AFL is unlikely to take any step that will embarrass the policy now being pursued in the state department.

With regard to the anti-poll tax and a federal anti-lynching bill, the federation has already taken positions on these questions and whatever is done this year will be a repetition of previous years.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RANDOLPH PUTS LEADERS ON SPOT; NOTHING IS DONE

BULLETIN **SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 23—Race discrimination on the part of a union is an "unrelieved tragedy," Mark Ethridge, Louisville newspaper editor and chairman of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice told the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, as he made a plea that labor "abolish all the devices of constitution and ritual" which now bar Negroes and other minority groups from the opportunity to work.**

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 23—The American Federation ~~of Labor, at~~ its convention last Tuesday, brought into the open the fight within its ranks over race discrimination practiced by some of its affiliates controlling trairing and employment for national defense production.

The outburst came after the resolutions committee had recommended action identical with that taken at the New Orleans convention last year, namely, "that affiliated national and international unions be requested to give the most sincere consideration to policies which will assist to eliminate any tendency to discriminate against workmen because of race, color or creed."

A. Philip Randolph and Milton P. Webster of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters had sought the establishment of a committee to investigate discrimination.

Mr. Randolph, in a speech which evoked great cheers, said that colored workers in the Ford factory during the strike there "did not see why they should sign up with the A. F. of L. when the A. F. of L. admits it cannot do anything to remove discrimination practiced by some of its internationals."

He called upon John P. Frey, head of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, who read the report of the resolutions committee, to give "a statement to the American public on the exclusion of the Negro from shipyards." He asked Harvey W. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, to make a statement on "discrimination against Negroes" in his union.

DEFENDS A. F. OF L. IN TREATMENT OF RACE

He mentioned also the carpenters ond painters, and added that something ought to be done about other organizations which were "defying the Executive order of President Roosevelt against discrimination in national defense work."

Mr. Frey deplored Mr. Randolph's speech, saying he "wouldn't be surprised if the indictment finds its way into pamphlet form and is distributed through those sections where prejudice is greatest, making our tosk of organization ten thousand times more difficult than in the past."

"If there is any institution in the United States to which the colored race owes more than any other it is this American Federation Labor," Mr. Frey declared.

Matthew Woll, chairman of the resolutions committee, charged that the purpose of the Randolph-Webster resolution was "to infringe upon the jurisdictional rights of our various national and international unions in the matter of race discrimination" and that most of them already had adjusted their constitutions to remove discrimination.

GREEN PROMISES TO REMOVE BIAS OFFICIALS

William Green, A. F. of L. president, said that Mr. Randolph was indicting the A. F. of L. on the ground that it "refused to take in Negroes," but the Ford case, he added, was "an instance when we were begging them to come in."

If any official of a national union, chartered directly by the A. F. of L. was found discriminating against colored workers, Mr. Green said, "I'll remove him."

William L. Hutcheson, president of the Carpententers Union, and several other speakers denounced Randolph's speech, but the Porters' president retorted that he could substantiate every statement he had made and no need "Delegate Hutcheson to tell me what to do about this resolution."

In an address preceding the resolution committee report, Mark Ethridge, chairman of the President's Commitee on Fair Employment Practice, cited instances of discrimination against colored workers in defense industries and warned that "we can't make minorities the whipping boys of our defense program."

35-1

OCT 25 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

AFL-OPM Pact

DOOMS PRESENT GAINS IN BUILDING TRADES—LATE IN SEEING ISSUE

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

WE haven't heard the last of the boner which our representatives made by allowing the agreement between AF of L, and OPM to get by without a protest. This agreement will affect the Negro more vitally and more harmfully than have any of the small victories about which we have been hearing so much.

Just this morning I got a letter from Walter White in which he describes for Thurman Arnold of the Attorney General's office how our victories in obtaining employment for Negroes in the building construction industry are melting before our eyes through the power given to the A. F. of L. by the pact. Says White:

"The NAACP is vitally concerned in this matter because it represents a situation in which a Federal agency, The O. P. M. facilities agreements giving closed shop contracts to labor organizations which openly discriminate against Negroes. Such monopoly arrangements are contrary to national policy and national interest.

OCT 25 1941

The reason White wrote this letter is because there is a case pending which characterizes the agreement as being one which has given a monopoly to the A. F. of L., and certain contractors, to the detriment of national interests. This case, as White wisely says, is an open-wedge for those who want to open the question, even at this late date, of Negro participation. The contractor involved in the suit is an unexpected and welcome ally.

Mr. Cayton

FACTS OF THE CASE

Here are facts of the case: P. J. Currier, president of the Currier Lumber Co. of Detroit, is a maker of pre-fabricated houses. He used C. I. O. help as the A. F. of L. would not work on pre-fabricated house materials. Currier submitted a bid on 300 Michigan defense houses which, he said, was $431,000 lower than that of other competitors. Final approval, nevertheless, of his bid of $979,000 has been held up by the recommendation of a Board of Review created by agreement between the A. F. of L. and the O. P. M. According to Currier, the sole ground for rejection was that his employees belonged to the C. I. O. These are the facts—you perhaps read the complete story on the front page of The Courier in last week's issue.

There are a lot of points I would like to make in connection with this story. For example it is pretty obvious that we have no labor groups who could capitalize on the opening this suit has made and cooperate with the NAACP. White has made a good beginning but delegations of laborers to Washington and the like are the things to bring pressure as it is primarily a labor case. Likewise it's pretty obvious to me that it's just too hot for Randolph, with his A. F. of L. connections, to handle. Then just who, from a labor point of view, is to deal with the problem. I labored the need for a federation of Negro C. I. O. workers enough last week. But here is a case par excellente of the role such an organization could play.

UNEMPLOYMENT TO HIT BUILDING TRADES

But you haven't heard the worst of this story yet. If you don't know already, and you should—there is going to be priorities in housing. There will be some building but the houses that are built will be only for the defense program. The Priorities Division has issued a list of materials to which the preference rating were applicable which included steel and iron, electrical equipment and material, plumbing and gas distribution systems, heating and ventilating equipment, household equipment, and land developments items. This means that there is going to be a decrease in employment in the building trades which might conservatively be estimated at, at least, 60,000 men. After that, and with the agreement to strengthen their hands, see what the A. F. of L. bureaucrats do to our "victories".

OCT 25 1941

In the first place, we have been successful in putting but few people to work in the building trades. Those for whom we have gotten jobs, in almost every instance, only received working permits and in most cases after the available white labor supply had been exhausted. In Chicago, for example, the business agent told Negro representatives that there were four hundred white plumbers unemployed and only after they had been put to work would they "give Negroes working permits." What will happen is, as the number of persons working in the building trades decrease, as a result of the priorities, they will lift the cards of the few electricians, carpenters, plumbers and the like, who are working.

LATE SEEING ISSUE

As usual two things stand out clearly: the Negro is late seeing an issue even if it vitally affects him, and then, he has no organized machinery with which to put up an all around fight. And don't take this as a wise crack at Walter White—he was on the spot this time.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Charge AFL Forces Negro Builders Into Jim Crow Unions to Stop Competition

CHICAGO, — (ANP) — The forcing of Negro building trades workers in the Chicago area into jim crow AFL locals to prevent them from competing with white workers in other sections of the city, though white workers would be allowed to compete ith Negroes in the Negro community, is the main purpose of the renewed attacks upon Negro CIO construction workers, CIO building trades officials declared this week.

OCT 24 1941

In substantiation of this astounding charge, Hammond Sevier and other CIO officials directed attention to the following facts:

The AFL unions, particularly the painters, are picketing the jobs of CIO Negro workers only. While white CIO workers in the building trades go unmolested, the AFL, it is charged, is paying pickets $11 per day to force janitors, milk and laundry wagon drivers to withhold services from tenants in buildings where CIO Negro labor is employed.

The AFL is said to have become unusally active when it was discovered that CIO Negro painters and decorators are working in Hyde Park an area forbidden to Negro workers in the AFL. Strangely enough, Negroes are doing the picketing against the other Negroes. A Negro AFL local union official is paying his sons, with money received from AFL headquarters in Chicago, $11 per day to do picketing.

OCT 24 1941

Sevier also pointed out that A. P. Randolph, president of the powerful Pullman Porters union, has this week condemned on the floor of the AFL convention at Seattle, AFL painters and other building trades unions for discriminating against Negro labor. "The boys of the AFL are being duped, "Sevier continued. "Since the defense program got under way, AFL permit cards have been given to a few of them after constant pressure by the federal government. When defense housing priorities go into effect forcing thousands of workers out of the building industry, everyone of the permit cards will be withdrawn and the AFL Negro building trades worker will be walking the streets again."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NAACP ASKS GREEN TO REBUKE LEADER FOR INSULTING RACE

~~OCT 25 1941~~

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Citing remarks of Harry O'Reilly, regional director of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago, as "insulting to colored people and a menace to the unity of pro-labor forces,' the N.A.A.C.P. has requested that President Wiliam Green of the A.F. of L., officially and publicly rebuke O'Reilly and Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

O'Reilly is reported as having said to a committee from the Chicago N.A.A.C.P. branch: "I consider the Negro an evil rather than an asset to organized labor. I don't believe all of this discrimination exists against the Negro; if it does, it is the Negro's fault and also his fight."

USED PROFANITY

OCT 25 1941

O'Reilly is also reported as having used profanity freely to the committee, which contained women, and to have used the word "n—e" instead of Negro.

The N.A.A.C.P. letter labeled O'Reilly "ignorant as well as insulting" and declared that discrimination against Negroes by A.F. of L. unions was well-known throughout the labor movement, had been discussed at numerous A.F. of L. conventions, including the convention just closed in Seattle, Wash., and had been the subject of numerous official statements and letters by President Green's office.

"In the light of this history," said the N.A.A.C.P. letter, "it is ridiculous for Regional Director O'Reilly to say that he does not believe discrimination exists against Negroes in the A. F. of L."

CITE DISCRIMINATIONS

The N.A.A.C.P. also asserted that here had been "almost daily" discrimination against Negro workers by A.F. of L. unions since the launching of the national defense program. Particular stress was laid upon the fact that the A.F. of L. convention, which closed in Seattle Oct. 16, met under the shadow of the Boeing Aircraft plant, where Negroes have been repeatedly excluded from employment, not by the Boeing company but by the A.F. of L. Aeronautical Workers Union.

The N.A.A.C.P. letter reminded President Green of the powerful anti-labor forces at work in the country, of the anti-labor legislation pending in Congress and of the appeals which have been made to Negro Americans to help defeat this legislation. The letter declared that Negroes were willing to support organized labor when organized labor demonstrated that it would treat Negro workers without discrimination.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

AFL Sidesteps Jim Crow Issue

OCT 22 1941

SEATTLE, WASH.—(SNS)—In voting down A. Philip Randolph's proposal for the appointment of a committee to investigate and act upon the question of discrimination against Negro workers by its member unions, the American Federation of Labor in convention here last week exposed the hyporisy of its anti-Nazi declarations and actions and indicated that though it has decided to fight Hitlerism abroad if necessary, it does not intend to combat its manifestations in this country.

The convention's action followed a bitterly conducted debate on the subject which was marked by personalities and an insulting reference to the Negro race by an A. F. of L. leader.

OCT 2

Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and key figure in the March-to-Washington movement delivered a blistering attack on racial policies practised by leading unions of the Federation, and presented impressive evidence that could not be refuted as proof of the veracity of his charges.

He gave the convention an array of names, unions and specific instances where unions affiliated with the Federation had been instrumental in barring Negro workers from jobs.

He was preceded on the platform by Mark Ethridge, publisher of the Louisville Courier-Journal and chairman of the Fair Employment Practice Committee appointed by President Roosevelt to remove discrimination from defense industries. Ethridge likened discriminatory union policies to Hitlerism.

"Unfortunately," he told the delegates, "there are still many unions and locals of unions which bar their fellowmen because of color. I would not be frank at all with you if I did not say that most of them are yours."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE A.F. OF L. CONVENTION

The American Federation of Labor had a splendid chance, at its Seattle convention, to remove the stigma of discrimination that has blemished its reputation for more than half a century. Instead the convention went through its annual trapeze acts, applauded thunderously A. Philip Rardolph's indictments of Jim Crow unions, then, turned down overwhelmingly a proposal for an official investigation of the powerful international and local unions charged with discrimination against Negroes.

NOV 8 1941

With affidavit after affidavit to substantiate every charge, Mr. Randolph forlornly pleaded for the appointment of a committee to study the evidence and act on the problem. He avoided generalities and blanket indictments. He was specific, definite and emphatic as he singled out the guilty AFL locals.

He pointed an accusing finger to the Machinists union in Seattle, Wash., to the Metal Trades Division in Tampa, Fla., to the Carpenters union in Milan, Tenn., to Local 72 of the Boilermakers in Portland, Ore., to AFL unions in St. Louis, Mo., to the opposition to Negro plasterers, painters and shipyard workers in Kansas City, Mo., Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and in New Orleans, La. All of these unions bar Negroes from their ranks and prevent them from being hired by companies that have expressed written willingness to employ them. But the convention took no action. It denounced Hitler and Hitlerism, reaffirmed its faith in democratic institutions and democratic tenets, endorsed President Roosevelt's foreign policy, barred convicts from central bodies of the Federation, attended to routine business, and adjourned.

Although Mr. Randolph pointed out how difficult it was for the public to distinguish between the official attitude of the Federation and the policies of its affiliates, his plea for the spread of democratic gospel in AFL ranks went unheeded. In the light of these facts one is led to the inevitable conclusion that there is no appreciable distinction in attitudes between the grand moguls of the American Federation of Labor and their anti-Negro affiliates. The convention was willing to excoriate, denounce Nazism abroad, but it utilized all manner of devices to prevent an official condemnation of Hitlerism in its own ranks.

1941

If, instead of asking for an examination of the charges against prejudiced unions, Mr. Randolph had insisted that the dead rats be removed from under the AFL house, he probably would have been hissed off the speakers' platform or thrown out the convention. For, most of the delegates were determined not to disturb the discriminatory policy of the unions in question. How long, O Lord! must Negro labor associate itself with these brazen hypocrites who preach democracy and practice Nazism?

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

A. F. OF L. AND THE NEGRO

DESPITE the recent Presidential order to end discrimination because of race and color in industry, the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention in Seattle, Washington, last week, again ignored the plea made by A. Philip Randolph, organizer and head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, for the abolition of discrimination within the ranks of organized labor.

OCT 25 1941

The convention not only straddled the issue by refusing to consider charges made by Mr. Randolph that certain of the unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. barred Negro membership but the Negro delegate was insulted by William L. Hutcheson, ruler of the carpenters union, who admonished Randolph to mind his own business and added:

> **"In our union we don't care whether you're an Irishman, a Jew or a nigger."**

William Green, president of the A. F. of L., soft-pedalled the Randolph attack by saying that a line must be drawn between the official stand of the A. F. of L., and the actions of some national or international unions. In the federal locals of the A. F. of L., directly responsible to the national body, Green declared, no discrimination would be allowed. In the rest of the Federation, he added, "it takes time to break down prejudice."

It is this hypocritical attitude that has caused many Negroes to become pessimistic on the out-look for better economic opportunities for the Negro skilled mechanic in the A. F. of L. The Wagner law which gives to organized labor the right to bargain collectively, practically puts all industrial jobs under the control of the labor unions, who in many instances bar Negro membership through their constitutions or by an unwritten understanding.

OCT 25 1941

The solution to this problem, it seems to us, is legislation that would put organized labor in the class with other large corporations—legislation that would regulate their activities, compel the locals make periodic financial reports, make them subject to anti-trust laws and force them to obey the presidential order that there shall be no discrimination in industry because of race or color.

The A. F. of L., must be made to stop straddling the race question.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

AFL LEADER CALLS NEGRO 'AN EVIL' IN LABOR CIRCLES

NOV 2 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y., Oct. 30—Citing remarks of Harry O'Reilly, regional director of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago, as "insulting to colored people and a menace to the unity of pro-labor forces," the N. A. A.C.P. has requested that President William Green of the A, F. of L. officially and publicly rebuke O'Reilly and Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

O'Reilly is reported as having said to a committee from the Chicago N. A. A C. P. branch: "I consider the Negro an evil rather than an asset to organized labor. I don't believe all of this discrimination exists against the Negro; if it does, it is the Negro's fault and also his fight."

O'Reilly is also reported as having used profanity freely to the committee, which contained women, and to have used the word "nigger" instead of Negro.

The N. A. A. C. P. letter labeled O'Reilly "ignorant as well as insulting," and declared that discrimination against Negroes by A. F. L unions was well-known throughout the labor movement. had been discussed at numerous A. F. of L. conventions, including the convention just closed in Seattle, Wash., and had been the subject of numerous official statements and letters by President Green's office.

"In the light of this history," said the N. A. A. C. P. letter, "it is ridiculous for Regional Director O'Reilly to say that he does not believe discrimination exists against Negroes in the A F. of L."

The N. A. A. C. P. also asserted that there had been "almost daily" discrimination against Negro workers by A. F. of L. unions since the launching of the national defense program. Particular stress was laid upon the fact that the A. F. of L convention, which closed in Seattle October 16, met under the shadow of the Boeing aircraft plant where Negroes have been repeatedly excluded from employment, not by the Boeing company, but by the A. F. of L. aeronautical workers union.

The N. A. A. C. P. letter reminded President Green of the powerful anti-labor forces at work in the country, of the anti-labor legislation pending in Congress and of the appeals which have been made to Negro Americans to help defeat the legislation. The letter declared that Negroes were willing to support organized labor when organized labor demonstrated that it would treat Negro workers without discrimination

---

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ASK PROBE OF O'REILLY TILT WITH NAACP

NOV 15 1941

Head Of Union Says He Knew Nothing About Chicago Incident

NEW YORK. — William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said he was "greatly surprised" over the report that Harry O'Reilly, A.F. of L. organizer in Chicago, had insulted a delegation from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People branch there and had called the Negro "an evil rather than an asset to organized labor."

Last week the NAACP requested Green to rebuke O'Reilly for the statement. O'Reilly is also said to have used profanity to the committee which visited him and to have used the word "nigger."

Green's reply asserted: "This statement which you report Mr. O'Reilly as having made is so definitely out of line with statements made by representatives of the American Federation that it is difficult for me to understand how and why Mr. O'Reilly would make such a statement."

There has been no evidence that O'Reilly was rebuked. Green merely stated he would "inquire into the matter" and communicate with the NAACP.

NOV 15 1941

Green was reminded in the NAACP's letter of the exclusion of Negro workers from his A.F. of L. machinists union.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION

Both the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. are fighting pending anti-strike legislation, and 500,000 Negro labor Unionists are tremendously interested in the outcome.

In both Houses of Congress, Southern legislators are behind current efforts to prevent work stoppages by law, and it is obvious that once such laws are on the books, a great stride will have been taken toward authoritarian government.

DEC 6 1941

While there are provisions in both House and Senate bills curbing employees and employers alike from stopping production, that referring to labor is more threatening and specific.

The failure of Congress to enact a real price control bill instead of the half-way measure passed last week, or to place a ceiling on profits, would leave a shackled labor at the mercy of inflation, vainly endeavoring to keep wages somewhere near an ever-rising cost of living.

For this reason there is going to be a tremendous fight by organized labor against the proposed legislation.

With the increasing tempo of war preparation, the likelihood of enactment of the law is greatly increased, especially since the next Congressional elections (if any) are a full year away.

DEC 6 1941

This development is inevitable because it is inherent in the expanding war economy which requires an unprecedented degree of industrial regimentation to assure a maximum effort for victory.

When and if this law is passed, Labor will be "on the spot."

There will undoubtedly continue to be labor unions but their structure and function must necessarily undergo drastic change, and the government will have tremendous power and responsibility.

It will be interesting to see whether the government, freed of fear of strikes, will attempt to break the craft monopoly, which in numerous cases now excludes Negro workers from many categories of work; or whether it will continue to bow to the color line in industry.

351-1941

A.F.OF L.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 15, 1941

BILLS ON LABOR OPPOSED BY AFL

State Laws Offered To Fight U. S. Sabotage Scored By Green

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 14—(AP)—Proposals that the states enact laws providing stiff punishment for sabotage of defense industries met sharp opposition Friday from the American Federation of Labor.

The suggestion, backed by the National Conference of Mayors and already under consideration in some legislatures, is intended on its face to punish sabotage, but actually may be used against innocent union men, said the federation's president, William Green.

In fact, he said, picketers, legitimate strikers or workers making normal mistakes might be punished under such legislation.

"Of course we all favor the punishment of anyone who sabotages defense industry," he declared.

The executive council of the AFL voted to use all its influence against the measure in each state, then studied the results of its effort to avoid strikes against industries that are engaged on defense production jobs.

Staff Additions Reported

Daniel W. Tracy, second assistant secretary of labor, reported to the council that the Labor Department's Conciliation Service recently had added 10 or 12 men to its staff and, generally, had been able to settle disputes between labor and defense industry.

Green said there had been some increase in labor disturbances due to the great activity in industries on defense work.

The Labor Department's help was enlisted, through Tracy, in opposing congressional proposals for anti-strike or compulsory mediation laws, against which the council already had gone on record.

The council slated a conference Saturday with Col. Philip Fleming, wage-hour administrator, and agreed to urge upon him that no changes be made in the law he administers.

Green reported a "very encouraging outlook" from conferences designed to bring back into the federation fold 80,000 members of the International Typographical Union, suspended in late 1939 for refusing to pay special assessments into a war chest for fighting the CIO.

Gain In Members Noted

Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, meanwhile, reported the AFL gained 500,000 members in the final four months of 1939 and now had a membership of about 4,774,000. While some of these gains came from the defense stepup, Green said, others were spread over non-defense industries and some came from CIO defections.

Green revealed that he attempted, without success, to prove to Harry Bennett, personnel director of the Ford Motor Company, that Ford had assumed a "wrong attitude" toward labor. Their conference was held several months ago in Bennett's Detroit office, Green said.

Consideration of the AFL's organization work in the auto industry was deferred until next week.

Also deferred was a telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People protesting alleged discrimination against Negroes in AFL unions.

"We get one of these just about every time we meet," Green commented.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AFL Red Caps Hit Jim-Crow Union Locals

MAR 4 1941

Number of Locals Have Withdrawn in Protest

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, March 3. — Protesting against the formation of "jim-crow" auxiliary locals of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, a number of AFL red cap federal locals located in California, Arizona and Utah, withdrew from the AFL and entered the United Transport Service Employees of America, the union revealed here today.

The wholesale transfer from the AFL to the UTSEA involves red caps at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley, Sacramento, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Fresno, Palo Alto, Davis, San Mateo and Wilmington, Calif.; Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., and Ogden, Utah. They are covered by existing agreements with the Southern Pacific Railroad, Pacific Electric Railroad, Los Angeles Union Terminal Co. and the Ogden (Utah) Railway Depot Company.

MAR 4 1941

TO FILE PETITIONS

Having been delivered an ultimatum by the jim-crow Brotherhood of Railway Clerks to apply for an auxiliary charter by March 1st, these locals under the leadership of general chairman, John R. Hoskins of San Francisco and President James A. Gray of Los Angeles, have been issued UTSEA charters and petitions are to be filed before the National Mediation Board for a series of elections to determine the bargaining agency for these employees.

MAR 4 1941

Mr. Hoskins and Mr. Gray in a joint statement declared:

"Our membership will never submit to the dictatorial policies outlined by the Executive Council of the AFL in conformity with a jim-crow conspiracy formented by George M. Harrison of the Railway Clerks. Therefore in answer to this undemocratic ultimatum, our membership in a unanimous decision have entered the ranks of the United Transport Service Employees of America, where we hope to demonstrate our willingness to serve the cause of democratic unionism in the railway industry."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps Withdraw From A. F. L. Locals To Join Negro Union

MAR 15 1941

CHICAGO, Ill.—(CNA)—Protesting against the formation of jim crow auxiliary locals of the lily-white Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, a number of AFL red cap federal locals located in California, Arizona, and Utah, withdrew from the AFL and entered the United Transport Service Employees of America, the union revealed this week.

The wholesale transfer from the AFL to the USTEA involves red caps at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Fresno, Palo Alto, Davis, San Mateo, and Wilmington, California; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; and Ogden, Utah. They are covered by existing agreements with the Southern Pacific Railroad, Pacific Electric Railroad, Los Angeles Union Terminal Co., and the Ogden (Utah) Railway Depot Co.

Having been delivered an ultimatum by the jim-crow Brotherhood of Railway Clerks to apply for an auxiliary charter by March 1st, these locals under the leadership of general chairman John R. Hoskins of San Francisco and President James A. Gray of Los Angeles, have been issued UTSEA charters and petitions are to be filed before the national Mediation Board for a series of elections to determine the bargaining agency for these employes.

MAR 15 1941

Mr. Hoskins and Mr. Gray in a joint statement declared:

"Our membership will never submit to the dictatorial policies outlined by the Executive Council of the AFL in conformity with a jim-crow conspiracy fomented by George M. Harrison of the Railway Clerks. Therefore in answer to this undemocratic ultimatum, our membership in a unanimous decision have entered the ranks of the United Transport Service Employees of America, where we hope to demonstrate our willingness to serve the cause of democratic unionism in the railway industry."

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
March 20, 1941

Negro Union To Get Charter

Special to The Times-Dispatch

HAMPTON INSTITUTE — The American Federation of Labor will soon grant a charter to the first Negro local of the Carpenters and Joiners Union in Virginia, Henry W. Blumenberg, general representatice of the union, announced at a special meeting of union officials, carpenters and Government authorities at Hampton Institute.

Discrimination against Negro carpenters in the Peninsula area and in other parts of the United States was brought to the attention of Government and union officials at the February meeting of the Hampton Institute Builders' Conference and the National Builders' Association. This meeting brought instant response on the part of Government labor experts in Washington, which resulted in the present negotiations between A. F. and L. and skilled Negro carpenters.

Mr. Blumenberg organized the nucleus of the new union from members of the Peninsula Trades and Labor Union, which was formed in December by 250 Negro

---

Newport News, Va. Press
March 19, 1941

NEGRO UNION WILL RECEIVE AFL CHARTER

Negro carpenters in Virginia have won a victory in their fight to aid America in its national defense, Hampton institute announced yesterday.

The American Federation of Labor will soon grant a charter to the first Negro local of the Carpenters and Joiners union in Virginia, Henry W. Blumenberg, general representative of the union, announced at a special meeting of union officials, carpenters, and government authorities at the institute.

Alleged discrimination against Negro carpenters in the Peninsula area and in other parts of the United States was brought to the attention of government and union officials by the February meeting of the Hampton Institute Builders' conference and the National Builders' association. This meeting, which focused national attention on these allegedly discriminatory practices, brought instant response on the part of government labor experts in Washington, which resulted in the present negotiations between A. F. of L. and skilled Negro carpenters.

Blumenberg organized the nucleus of the new union from members of the Peninsula Trades and Labor union, which was formed in December by 250 Negro mechanics and artisans of many trades. Charles A. Hill, Herbert B. Rice, W. H. Fauntleroy, H. P. Johnson and Grady P. Anderson, charter members of this organization, worked in cooperation with Hampton institute faculty members Roscoe E. Lewis, Benson L. Dutton and William H. Moses Jr. and Samuel A. Haynes, Peninsula manager of the Journal and Guide and Newport News Star to form the Peninsula Trades and Labor union.

The charter membership of the group will number 45 skilled carpenters, who contributed $675 among themselves to get the union under way. Hill, president of the Peninsula Trades and Labor union, announced that his organization will continue its drive to incorporate its membership into unions and is already at work negotiating with plasterers, painters, and other building trades groups.

Alleged discrimination against Negro carpenters at Fort Eustis, one of the special objects of a resolution passed by the Hampton Institute Builders' conference, is expected to be discontinued now that Negro carpenters will be allowed union work cards, the institute added.

It is understood that there is only one other Negro local of this American Federation of Labor union in the United States. This is in Baltimore and was organized by Edward S. Lewis of that city, who was instrumental in bringing about the negotiations between Blumenberg, John J. Malloy, the business representative of Local 101 in Baltimore, and the members of [illegible] organization

351-1941 A.F.OF L.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 15, 1941

BILLS ON LABOR OPPOSED BY AFL

State Laws Offered To Fight U. S. Sabotage Scored By Green

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 14—(AP)—Proposals that the states enact laws providing stiff punishment for sabotage of defense industries met sharp opposition Friday from the American Federation of Labor.

The suggestion, backed by the National Conference of Mayors and already under consideration in some legislatures, is intended on its face to punish sabotage, but actually may be used against innocent union men, said the federation's president, William Green.

In fact, he said, picketers, legitimate strikers or workers making normal mistakes might be punished under such legislation.

"Of course we all favor the punishment of anyone who sabotages defense industry," he declared.

The executive council of the AFL voted to use all its influence against the measure in each state, then studied the results of its effort to avoid strikes against industries that are engaged on defense production jobs.

Staff Additions Reported

Daniel W. Tracy, second assistant secretary of labor, reported to the council that the Labor Department's Conciliation Service recently had added 10 or 12 men to its staff and, generally, had been able to settle disputes between labor and defense industry.

Green said there had been some increase in labor disturbances due to the great activity in industries on defense work.

The Labor Department's help was enlisted, through Tracy, in opposing congressional proposals for anti-strike or compulsory mediation laws, against which the council already had gone on record.

The council slated a conference Saturday with Col. Philip Fleming, wage-hour administrator, and agreed to urge upon him that no changes be made in the law he administers.

Green reported a "very encouraging outlook" from conferences designed to bring back into the federation fold 80,000 members of the International Typographical Union, suspended in late 1939 for refusing to pay special assessments into a war chest for fighting the CIO.

Gain In Members Noted

Secretary - Treasurer George Meany, meanwhile, reported the AFL gained 500,000 members in the final four months of 1939 and now had a membership of about 4,774,000. While some of these gains came from the defense stepup, Green said, others were spread over non-defense industries and some came from CIO defections.

Green revealed that he attempted, without success, to prove to Harry Bennett, personnel director of the Ford Motor Company, that Ford had assumed a "wrong attitude" toward labor. Their conference was held several months ago in Bennett's Detroit office, Green said.

Consideration of the AFL's organization work in the auto industry was deferred until next week.

Also deferred was a telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People protesting alleged discrimination against Negroes in AFL unions.

"We get one of these just about every time we meet," Green commented.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AFL Red Caps Hit Jim-Crow Union Locals

MAR 4 1941

Number of Locals Have Withdrawn in Protest

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, March 3. — Protesting against the formation of "jim-crow" auxiliary locals of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, a number of AFL red cap federal locals located in California, Arizona and Utah, withdrew from the AFL and entered the United Transport Service Employees of America, the union revealed here today.

The wholesale transfer from the AFL to the UTSEA involves red caps at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley, Sacramento, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Fresno, Palo Alto, Davis, San Mateo and Wilmington, Calif.; Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., and Ogden, Utah. They are covered by existing agreements with the Southern Pacific Railroad, Pacific Electric Railroad, Los Angeles Union Terminal Co. and the Ogden (Utah) Railway Depot Company.

MAR 4 1941

TO FILE PETITIONS

Having been delivered an ultimatum by the jim-crow Brotherhood of Railway Clerks to apply for an auxiliary charter by March 1st, these locals under the leadership of general chairman, John R. Hoskins of San Francisco and President James A. Gray of Los Angeles, have been issued UTSEA charters and petitions are to be filed before the National Mediation Board for a series of elections to determine the bargaining agency for these employees.

MAR 4 1941

Mr. Hoskins and Mr. Gray in a joint statement declared:

"Our membership will never submit to the dictatorial policies outlined by the Executive Council of the AFL in conformity with a jim-crow conspiracy fomented by George M. Harrison of the Railway Clerks. Therefore in answer to this undemocratic ultimatum, our membership in a unanimous decision have entered the ranks of the United Transport Service Employees of America, where we hope to demonstrate our willingness to serve the cause of democratic unionism in the railway industry."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps Withdraw From A. F. L. Locals To Join Negro Union

MAR 15 1941

CHICAGO, Ill.—(CNA)—Protesting against the formation of jim crow auxiliary locals of the lily-white Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, a number of AFL red cap federal locals located in California, Arizona, and Utah, withdrew from the AFL and entered the United Transport Service Employees of America, the union revealed this week.

The wholesale transfer from the AFL to the USTEA involves red caps at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Fresno, Palo Alto, Davis, San Mateo, and Wilmington, California; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; and Ogden, Utah. They are covered by existing agreements with the Southern Pacific Railroad, Pacific Electric Railroad, Los Angeles Union Terminal Co., and the Ogden (Utah) Railway Depot Co.

Having been delivered an ultimatum by the jim-crow Brotherhood of Railway Clerks to apply for an auxiliary charter by March 1st, these locals under the leadership of general chairman John R. Hoskins of San Francisco and President James A. Gray of Los Angeles, have been issued UTSEA charters and petitions are to be filed before the national Mediation Board for a series of elections to determine the bargaining agency for these employes.

MAR 15 1941

Mr. Hoskins and Mr. Gray in a joint statement declared:

"Our membership will never submit to the dictatorial policies outlined by the Executive Council of the AFL in conformity with a jim-crow conspiracy fomented by George M. Harrison of the Railway Clerks. Therefore in answer to this undemocratic ultimatum, our membership in a unanimous decision have entered the ranks of the United Transport Service Employees of America, where we hope to demonstrate our willingness to serve the cause of democratic unionism in the railway industry."

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
March 20, 1941

Negro Union To Get Charter

Special to The Times-Dispatch

HAMPTON INSTITUTE — The American Federation of Labor will soon grant a charter to the first Negro local of the Carpenters and Joiners Union in Virginia, Henry W. Blumenberg, general representatice of the union, announced at a special meeting of union officials, carpenters and Government authorities at Hampton Institute.

Discrimination against Negro carpenters in the Peninsula area and in other parts of the United States was brought to the attention of Government and union officials at the February meeting of the Hampton Institute Builders' Conference and the National Builders' Association. This meeting brought instant response on the part of Government labor experts in Washington, which resulted in the present negotiations between A. F. and L. and skilled Negro carpenters.

Mr. Blumenberg organized the nucleus of the new union from members of the Peninsula Trades and Labor Union, which was formed in December by 250 Negro

---

Newport News, Va. Press
March 19, 1941

NEGRO UNION WILL RECEIVE AFL CHARTER

Negro carpenters in Virginia have won a victory in their fight to aid America in its national defense, Hampton institute announced yesterday.

The American Federation of Labor will soon grant a charter to the first Negro local of the Carpenters and Joiners union in Virginia, Henry W. Blumenberg, general representative of the union, announced at a special meeting of union officials, carpenters, and government authorities at the institute.

Alleged discrimination against Negro carpenters in the Peninsula area and in other parts of the United States was brought to the attention of government and union officials by the February meeting of the Hampton Institute Builders' conference and the National Builders' association. This meeting, which focused national attention on these allegedly discriminatory practices, brought instant response on the part of government labor experts in Washington, which resulted in the present negotiations between A. F. of L. and skilled Negro carpenters.

Blumenberg organized the nucleus of the new union from members of the Peninsula Trades and Labor union, which was formed in December by 250 Negro mechanics and artisans of many trades. Charles A. Hill, Herbert B. Rice, W. H. Fauntleroy, H. P. Johnson and Grady P. Anderson, charter members of this organization, worked in cooperation with Hampton institute faculty members Roscoe E. Lewis, Benson L. Dutton and William H. Moses Jr. and Samuel A. Haynes, Peninsula manager of the Journal and Guide and Newport News Star to form the Peninsula Trades and Labor union.

The charter membership of the group will number 45 skilled carpenters, who contributed $675 among themselves to get the union under way. Hill, president of the Peninsula Trades and Labor union, announced that his organization will continue its drive to incorporate its membership into unions and is already at work negotiating with plasterers, painters, and other building trades groups.

Alleged discrimination against

Negro carpenters at Fort Eustis, one of the special objects of a resolution passed by the Hampton Institute Builders' conference, is expected to be discontinued now that Negro carpenters will be allowed union work cards, the institute added.

It is understood that there is only one other Negro local of this American Federation of Labor union in the United States. This is in Baltimore and was organized by Edward S. Lewis of that city, who was instrumental in bringing about the negotiations between Blumenberg, John J. Malloy, the business representative of Local 101 in Baltimore, and the members of the organization

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

A. F. L. Oppose Bill To Outlaw Jim Crow Unions

35

MAR 1 5 1941

NEW YORK.—In reply to a telegram informing him that American Federation of Labor unions in Indiana were opposing a bill in the state legislature which would bar from collective bargaining any union which maintains a lily-white membership, William Green, A. F. of L. president, has wired the N.A.A.C.P. that the unions are opposing the bill because it "would destroy collective bargaining between employers and employes."

The Indiana House has passed unanimously, by a vote of 62-0, bill number 445, designed to remove discrimination against Negroes in the plants having national defense contracts.

MAR 1 5 1941

A.F. of L. unions, which are largely of the craft variety, and which bar Negroes from membership more consistently than CIO unions, are opposing this bill.

The N.A.A.C.P. also learned that the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce was opposing the bill vigorously. N.A.A.C.P. Secretary Walter White sent a telegram to James S. Kemper, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, asking him to use his influence to have the Indiana Chamber alter its policy on the measure.

Kemper replied that the form of organization of the United States Chamber of Commerce prevented it from making "suggestions to organization members, except with respect to matters on which the Chamber itself previously has taken a position."

MAR 1 5 1941

Kemper was urged by Mr. White to have the United States, Chamber of Commerce take a position that the color bar in employment in industry should be eliminated in the interest of national unity.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Carpenters to Get A.F. of L. Charter in Va,

May Wipe Out Labor Bias at Fort Eustis

MAR 2 2 1941

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va.—Virginia carpenters have won a decisive victory in their fight to aid America in its national defense, it was revealed in an announcement by Henry W. Blumenberg, representative of the union, that his union will soon grant a charter to the first colored local of the Carpenters and Joiners Union in Virginia.

Discrimination against carpenters in the Peninsula area and in other parts of the United States was brought to the attention of government and union officials by the February meeting of the Hampton Institute Builders' Conference and the National Builders' Association.

Conference Provoked Action

Instant response on the part of government labor experts in Washington, resulted in the present negotiations between A.F. of L. and skilled colored carpenters.

Mr. Blumenberg organized the nucleus of the new union from members of the Peninsula Trades and Labor Union, which was formed in December by 250 colored mechanics and artisans of many trades.

MAR 2 2 1941

The charter membership of the group will number 45 skilled carpenters, who contributed $675 among themselves to get the union under way.

Discrimination at Fort Eustis, one of the special objectives of the Hampton Institute Builders' Conference, is now expected to be discontinued.

Only One Other Local

It is understood that the only other colored local of the American Federation of Labor union in the United States is in Baltimore and was organized by Edward S. Lewis.

MAR 2 2 1941

Mr. Lewis was also instrumental in bringing about the negotiations between Mr. Blumenberg, John J. Malloy, business representative of Local 101 in Baltimore, and the members of the Hampton organization.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RACE CARPENTERS GET A. F. OF L. CHARTER

MAR 2 2 1941

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va., Mar. 20—Negro carpenters in Virginia won a decisive victory in their fight to aid America in its national defense.

MAR 2 2 1941

The American Federation of Labor will soon grant a charter to the first Negro local of the Carpenters and Joiners Union in Virginia, Henry W. Blumenberg, general representative of the union, announced at a special meeting of union officials, carpenters, and government authorities at Hampton Institute.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE AFL UNION WINS RACE FIGHT AFTER CIO FAILS

35

APR 1 2 1941

Birmingham Group, Officered and Led By White Men, Gets Equal Pay and Removal of Job Ban at Ingalls Iron Works.

BIRMINGHAM, April 10—(ANP)—Labor news of a startling nature was created in this southern industrial city recently when an A. F. of L. union, officered and led by white men, successfully went to bat for several hundred Negro workers after the CIO had failed to improve Negroes' working conditions over a three-year period.

APR 1 2 1941

Demanding equal pay for equal work and the removal of job and training restrictions from Negro steelworkers, the A. F. of L. union, Local 539 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron workers, voted to strike against the Ingalls Iron works here and tie up more than $48,000,000 worth of national defense contracts held by the Ingalls interests here and in Pascagoula, Miss.

APR 1 2 1941

The threatened strike was averted by the Office of Production Management after the NAACP had called the situation to the attention of the office of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant to Sidney Hillman. The union emerged victorious from the dispute after winning a 12½ per cent wage increase for the Negro workers and a six per cent increase for the white workers.

APR 1 2 1941

Of greater significance, however, was the union's action in winning a reclassification of all the workers in the plant — assuring Negroes equal pay for equal work—and also the removal of all bans against Negro workers in the Ingalls Iron Works Apprentice school.

The Negro steel workers, comprising 68 per cent of the 700 workers in Ingall's two Birmingham plants, were organized by the CIO in 1937, mainly through the efforts of L. H. Britt, veteran Negro steel worker who is now special representative for the A. F. of L. local. According to Britt, Negro skilled workers in the plant were classified and paid as "helpers" despite the fact that they performed mechanic's work.

"We joined the CIO" Britt said, "because they promised to rectify this situation. They said they would fight for reclassification of all workers so that Negro steel workers would have economic equality. They didn't do this though. And although the CIO held a contract at Ingall's for more than two years, the only raises we Negroes got were those which the Wages and Hour law forced Mr. Ingalls to pay."

APR 1 2 1941

Last summer, after three vain attempts to force the CIO representative to raise the question of reclassification with the Ingalls management, the Negro workers went over in a body to the A. F. of L. union which agreed to raise this question. In an election ordered by the National Labor Relations board last September, Local 539, supported by the Negro workers, defeated the CIO by a three to one vote as the bargaining agen in the Ingalls plant.

351-1941

A.F. OF L.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

MAR 22 1941

MAR 22 1941

MAKE LABOR HISTORY—At a history-making conference, March 13 at Bemis Labratory, Hampton Institute, these men participated in arrangemeents for granting the Peninsula Trade and Labor Union a charter from the American Federation of Labor under auspices of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Forty-four charter members conferred with the officials. Left to right—Isaac Johnson, PTLU business manager; Edward S. Lewis, executive secretary, Baltimore Urban League, through which Negro carpenters and other skilled and semi-skilled Negro mechanics have been placed at Camp Meade, Md., and on national defense projects in the Baltimore area; Charles Hill, PTLU president; H. W. Blumenberg, general representative of the carpenters and joiners brotherhood; and Grady P. Anderson, PTLU executive secretary.

Richmond, Va News-Leader
March 22, 1941

Local Unions Are Planned For Negroes

Millmen, Carpenters To Hold Meeting

Negro millmen and carpenters in Richmond and vicinity will draft applications for charters for local unions at an organization meeting set for 8:30 o'clock Monday night at 2 West Marshall Street, according to H. Y. Morse, business manager of Carpenters' Local No. 388 and Millmen's Local No. 1682.

Meeting with the labor groups will be representatives in Richmond of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and also several officials of the Richmond Urban League.

Mr. Morse said, contrary to reports appearing in the press, there were several union locals of Negroes in Virginia, one of them having been in existence for at least the past five years in Norfolk—No. 1998, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Proposed organization of Negro locals here, Mr. Morse pointed out, resulted partly from the requests of about sixty Negro millmen, coming under the recently obtained agreement with the Miller Manufacturing Company. Outside workers, classified as members of the proposed carpenters' local, also will apply to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Application, Mr. Morse carefully pointed out, will be made for the two charters to the Brotherhood, and not to the AFL.

According to the constitution of the United Brotherhood, there is absolutely no discrimination as to race, creed or color provided citizenship is established as far as membership in locals is concerned, Mr. Morse stated. He listed both white and Negro membership in locals of the truck drivers and teamsters, plasterers, concrete finishers, hod-carriers, tile and terrazo workers and warehousemen loaders and helpers.

In connection with charges of discrimination against Negro workers on several large national defense projects, Mr. Morse declared the Camp Eustis job was a non-union job to begin with, and the locals consequently were unable to do anything about it.

Richmond, Va News-Leader
March 26, 1941

Local Negro Union To Get Charter

A Negro local of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, an affiliate of the AFL, will receive its charter next Monday night as the first Negro chapter to be chartered in Richmond, according to H. Y. Morse, business manager of Locals 388 and 1682 of the carpenters and millmen.

Formation of the Negro union was undertaken after discussions among defense council authorities, union and Negro leaders, when it was asserted in the Tidewater area that skilled Negro workmen were discriminated against on several defense jobs.

Meanwhile, formation of a Negro millmen's local here progressed as prospective members were being signed up for the petition to the International Brotherhood. Mr. Morse said that this petition would probably be sent in the latter part of next week.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
March 26, 1941

Carpenters' Negro Local Is Organized

Organization of a Negro local of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and A. F. of L. affiliate, was completed at a meeting here Monday night.

The new local, first Negro chapter to be chartered in Richmond by the carpenters, will receive its charter next Monday night, it was announced yesterday by H. Y. Morse, business manager of locals 388 and 1682 of the carpenters. The number of the new local has not been determined.

Twenty-three members were in the group which organized Monday night and applied for a charter. Among speakers at the organization meeting were W. A. Hall, president of the Richmond Urban League, and these local union leaders; W. M. Robertson, president of Carpenters Local 388; Milton Shufelt, financial secretary of local 388; W. Dan Anderson, business manager of Truck Drivers and Helpers Local 592, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers; George Turner, vice-president of the State office workers union; W. A. Moran, secretary of the Richmond Central Trades and Labor Council, and Mr. Morse.

The Negroes' union was formed shortly after discussions among defense council authorities, union and Negro leaders. Negro organizations have protested they were not getting a fair deal on defense employment, and the State Defense Council has appealed to contractors, to trade unions and to employers generally to see that skilled Negro workmen were not discriminated against ~~on defense~~ work.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
March 21, 1941

Navicerts for Negro Labor Blockade

The controversy, earlier this year, over defense contractors' boycotts of skilled Negro labor, produced explanations that dissembled the real difficulty. The burden of the argument for confining Negro labor mainly to defense jobs requiring unskilled or semi-skilled workers, was that it has been found in practice that the non-employment of Negro workers in the skilled categories promoted a peaceful relationship between the racial groups.

What was omitted from these official explanations was the well-known fact that the Jim-crowing of workers on defense job was based on the unwillingness of the A. F. of L. craft unions to grant union charters to groups of Negro craftsmen. It followed that, with the craft unions in position to make trouble if defense contractors employed non-union Negro craftsmen, even though they were fully qualified, the contractors, as a matter of cold expediency, closed the skilled jobs to Negro workers.

It is, therefore, a development of high significance that the A. F. of L. has decided to unionize, as a Negro local of the Federation's Carpenters and Joiners' Union, forty-five skilled carpenters now affiliated with the recently organized Peninsula Trades and Labor Union. It would be understating the case to say that this attacks the bottleneck which has reduced to a trickle the stream of skilled Negro labor flowing to national defense works. Instead of a bottleneck, it is almost a complete embargo. It is proposed now to organize a recognized union of Negro carpenters who will, in a manner of speaking, be armed with navicerts permitting them to pass through the union blockade.

The blockade is not, of course, a complete one. A few defense contractors have employed a few Negroes on skilled jobs. But in the main, as the Virginia State Defense Council now reports, the blockade has been (and still is) general and effective. The Council instituted a study of this business following the storm that broke in January and February over the exclusion of skilled Negro workers from defense jobs for which they were qualified. It now reports, in a statement by its chairman, Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, that while employment "seems to have been given skilled and qualified Negro mechanics at the Radford Ordnance Works," on most other Virginia defense projects the sole employment given Negroes has been in common labor or in a few hard, semi-skilled categories. The Council's "impression," from the facts it has discovered, is "that the issue of providing work for skilled Negro mechanics was being dodged."

The Virginia Defense Council condemns this discrimination as incompatible with the spirit in which the national re-armament effort is being conducted, and adds: "If Negroes are fit to fight for America, they are fit to have such jobs in defense industries as they are qualified to fill."

The elemental equities are on the side of this judgment. How can it be made to prevail? It can not, without great difficulty, be made to prevail without the collaberation of the American Federation of Labor which controls most of the craft unions. The chartering of a group of Negro carpenters in the Tidewater area as a Federation local is the first evidence of A. F. of L. co-operation.

But one swallow does not make a Spring. The privilege of unionization will have to be extended to all Negro craftsmen who are professionally qualified for this status and who desire union affiliation—not only carpenters, but also machinists, plumbers, bricklayers, plasterers and painters. When all these qualified Negro craftsmen are armed with A. F. of L. navicerts, the defense blockade against skilled Negro workers will be broken—as it ought to be.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

WHITE AFL UNION IN BIRMINGHAM GOES TO BAT FOR NEGROES; SECURES EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK HOURS

APR 12 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — ANP) — Labor news of a startling nature was created in this Southern industria city recently when an A. F. of L. union, officered and led by white men, successfully went to bat for several hundred Negro workers after the CIO had failed to improve Negroes' working conditions over a three-year period.

Demanding equal pay for equal work and the removal of job and training restrictions from Negro steelworkers, the A. F. of L. union, local 539 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, voted to strike against the Ingalls Iron Works here and tie up more than $48,000,000 worth of national defense contracts held by the Ingalls interests here and in Pascagoula, Miss.

The threatened strike was averted by the office of production manager ofter the NAACP had called the situation to the attention of the office of Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant to Sidney Hillman. The union emerged victorious from the dispute after winning 12½ per cent wage increase for the Negro workers and per cent increase for the white workers.

APR 12 1941

Workers Reclassified

Of greater significance, however, was the union's action in winning a reclassification of all the workers in the plant—assuring Negroes equa pay for equal work—and also the removal of all bans against Negro workers in the Ingalls Iron Works Apprentice school.

The Negro steel workers, comprising 68 percent of the 700 workers in Ingall's two Birmingham plants, were organized by the CIO in 1937 mainly through the efforts of L. H. Britt, veteran Negro steel worker who is now special representative for the A. F. of L. local. According to Britt, Negro skilled workers in the plant were classified and paid as "helpers" despite the fact that they performed mechanic's work.

"We joined the CIO" Britt said "because they promised to rectify this situation. They said they would fight for reclassification of all workers so that Negro steel workers would have economic equality. They didn't do this though. And although the CIO held a contract at Ingall's for more than two years, the only raises we Negroes got were those the wages and hours law forced Ingalls to pay".

APR 12 1941

Left CIO For AFL

Last summer, after three vain attempts to force the CIO representatives to raise the question of reclassification with the Ingalls management, the Negro workers went over in a body to the AFL union which agreed to raise this question. In an election ordered by the Nationa Labor Relations Board last September, local 539, supported by the Negro worker, defeated the CIO by a three to one vote as the bargaining agent in the Ingalls plant.

Led by S. T. McDonald, white president, and Britt, special representatives, the AFL union opened negotiations immediately by demanding reclassification of the Negro workers and equal pay for equal work. The management allegedly countered by offering raises of eight to 18 cents an hour for first and second class mechanics (all white) and only a two-cent raise for helpers, all colored.

APR 12 1941

The union unanimously rejected the counter-offer, however, and the negotiations dragged out for more than five months, with Stanlty Rouds, international representative of the Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers, pressing the union demands.

Counter Offers Refused

Finally in March, Rouds informed the union membership that the Ingalls management had told him flatly that no raises would be granted the Negro workers, although the management again made its former offer to the white mechanics. That night, local 539 voted a strike within 48 hours. OPM immediately rushed a representative to the scene. At the same time, E. W. Taggert, president of the local NAACP, wired national headquarters in New York, which promptly in turn notified Robert Weaver, Clarence R. Johnson, labor consultant, and Ted Poston, field assistant, were immediately sent to the scene.

In subsequent negotiations, the management withdrew its offer and promised a flat six per cent raise to all workers, Negro and white. The union rejected this offer, pointing out that the Negro wage scale was far below the white scale that a six per cent raise would be no victory in their behalf. Six hours later, after continuous negotiation, the union won an offer of 12½ per cent raise for Negroes and a six per cent raise for the whites.

At the same time, the local won its demand for a complete reclassification of all workers and equal pay for equal work. The reclassification will be carried out by the union shop committee within the next 90 days.

APR 12 1941

Negro workers were especially pleased at the success of the union in opening up the Ingalls apprentice school for Negroes for the first time. Under the agreement, several of the Negro helpers will be automatically enrolled in the apprentice school at once. Other Negro "helpers" will automatically be classified and paid as second class mechanics.

The Ingalls dispute marked the second time within a year that local white AFL trade unionists had gone down the line for Negro workers. Last spring, the organized street car motormen here tied up Birmingham transit system for two days in a sympathy strike in support of the Negro maintenance workers in the street car shops. The company capitulated to the Negro shopmen's demands after the white motormen refused to man their cars.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RANDOLPH, WEBSTER DELEGATES TO AFL MEET IN SEATTLE

OCT 4 1941

NEW YORK, Oct. 2—It was announced at the International Headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in New York City that A. Philip Randolph, International President, and M. P. Webster, 1st International Vice President and member of President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee, will attend the 61st Annual Convention of the AFL which will be held in Seattle, Washington, from October 6-17.

Delegates Randolph and Webster are presenting resolutions on endorsement of the Fair Employment Practice Committee, anti-poll tax legislation, federal anti-lynch bill, lend-lease aid to Ethiopia, support of Great Britain, China and Russia against Hitler and Hitlerism, and establishment of a trade union committee against discriminations on account of race, color, religion or national origin.

351-1941 A.F. of L.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

AFL Union Gives Jim Crow Dinner

APR 19 1941

Invited AFRO Reporter Denied Admittance as Colored Officials Try to Keep Biased Affair Secret

35-

BALTIMORE — While the white members of Local 194 of the International Hod Carriers and Laborers' Union an AF ofL affiliate, were reported to have been making merry at a downtown hotel, Thursday evening, the colored members were given a banquet at the Elks' Home, on Madison Avenue and McMechen Street.

Colored officials of the union for some unexplained reason attempted to shroud this affair with a veil of secrecy and would give an invited AFRO reporter little information or grant his admittance.

Whites in Minority

Prior to these two affairs, it was learned, however, that dedication and seventh anniversary services were held earlier in the evening at the union's hall, 317 N. Paca Street, with Charles Clark, international vice president and one of the organizers of the local union, as one of the guest speakers.

APR 19 1941

However, John M. Buzby, white, head of the local organization, would issue no comment to the AFRO concerning the affair, when called on Friday, other than the statement that "It was just a little affair for the union's members."

APR 19 1941

This union is reported to have a membership of approximately 1700, only 300 of whom are white.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Carpenters Presented AFL Charter

APR 26 1941

Electricians Lay Plans For Union Charter

By S. A. HAYNES

HAMPTON—An A. F. L. union charter, No. 815, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, was presented to 48 Negro carpenters (all charter members) at an historic ceremony, Saturday afternoon in the Masonic Hall on Grant Street.

Presentation was made and instructions given by William H. Blumenberg, national representative of the Brotherhood, who presided and installed the officers.

He charged them to live up to their responsibilities as craftsmen under the charter, and congratulated them on the vision and initiative which made the charter possible.

APR 26 1941

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assisting Mr. Blumenberg were S. H. Aardema, business representative for the white carpenters union in Newport News, and Mr. Malloy, business representative of the white carpenters union in Baltimore.

Greetings from the Hod Carriers and Laborers union on the Peninsula, 90 per cent of whose membership is colored, were extended by H. H. Freeman, international representative. Mr. Aardema, who has been lending encouragement to the Peninsula Trade and Labor Union, the agency which brought about the Negro union, pledged continued cooperation with the group.

OFFICERS

Officers installed were: Charles A. Hill, president; Mercer H. Fauntleroy, vice president; Alonzo B. Cook, recording secretary; Herbert D. Rice, financial secretary; George A. F. Taylor, treasurer; Edward L. Jeffers, conductor; Cephas O. Powell, warden; Jefferson Billups, Leroy Copeland and Andrew Hayes, trustees.

Organization of the Union grew out of the refusal of government contractors at Fort Eustis, and those constructing national defense housing projects in Newport News and Hampton, to employ Negro carpenters unless they became unionized.

ELECTRICIANS NEXT

APR 26 1941

The electricians in the Peninsula Trade and Labor Union have started negotiations looking towards a union charter. They were given preliminary instructions last week by a representation of the union from Washington, and pledged support in their efforts.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

THERESA COOK WINS BACK WAGE DISPUTE

MAY 3 - 1941

Settlement of a job classification and pay dispute revolving around Jesse Sleigh, former cook at the Theresa Hotel, was announced by Local 6 of the Hotel Trades Council, A.F. of L. last week, with awarding of $293 back pay to Sleigh. The decision was rendered by Commissioner Mulrooney, impartial chairman for the union.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

A. F. L. Union Wins Jobs Agrees to End Bans for Negroes in Biggest Retail Meat Chain; Store

Springs' Super Markets, the largest independent retail meat dealers organization in New York City has agreed to place Negro butchers in its shops as an immediate result of a campaign worked out by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union Local 623, American Federation of Labor, to place Negro meat cutters in stores outside the Harlem area.

If we are to prove to the 12,000,000 Negro people that they should join and support labor union we must show them that the trade union movement is ready to fight for their right to work side by side with white workers in the shops and factories, and in any or all neighborhoods. Only in that way can we insure the unity of all labor, regardless of color, race, or creed. Local 623 is prepared to strike any shop where an employer refuses to hire a union man because he is a Negro."

The Meat Cutters Union has jurisdiction over all retail meat Bronx, and has over 90 per cent of the independent stores under contract. Among its members it counts 18 different nationalities, and it includes more than 150 Negro workers in its ranks.

The Executive Board of the union, decided at its May 27th meeting, to see to it that Negro members were placed in the so-called "white" districts and to break prejudice and discrimination against their employment in such neighborhoods.

Conrad Kaye, manager of Local 623 emphasized that **"No progressive union could permit this type of discrimination to exist.**

Nation
New York, N. Y.

OCT 25 1941

IT IS EASY TO CARICATURE THE ELDER statesmen of the American Federation of Labor who met for two relatively tranquil weeks in Seattle. Confronted by the painful problem of George E. Browne, member of the executive council now on trial for extortion, the A. F. of L. moguls made every effort not to offend him; instead of dramatically ousting him from his post, they reduced the membership on the council, thus paving the way for his graceful exit. Only Brother Browne's insistence upon running compelled his associates to rebuke him by methodically voting him down. They also passed a resolution containing many lofty phrases about the evils of racketeering but offering little hope of concrete action; in fact, the chief step forward was the decision to bar convicts from central bodies of the federation. On the thorny subject of discrimination against Negroes on the part of several important A. F. of L. unions, the convention again assumed its pose of anguished inertia. A proposal by A. Philip Randolph for the appointment of a committee to deal with the problem was vigorously defeated.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

AFL Bars Putting Green On The Spot

5a'

By A. E. WHITE

JUL 29 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—When congress looks into the discrimination against Negroes what will be the reaction to the mighty American Federation of Labor, whose president, William Green, was named by the President to be a member of the Fair Practices committee, organized to enforce the recent edict against racial discrimination in defense?

Mr. Green is the undisputed head of an organization which has permitted and still permits its member trade unions to write clauses in their constitutions barring Negroes from membership in them and specifically setting forth a definite racial characteristic as a prerequisite for membership.

From the American Trade-Unions handbook, Bulletin 618, issued in 1936 by the bureau of labor statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, an official publication of that department, excerpts are listed herein from the constitution of several international unions, including the A. F. of L.

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, an A. F. of L. union says, "Any white person, male or female of good moral character."

The Brotherhood of Dining Car Conductors, a railroad union, "An applicant for membership must be of the Caucasian race."

Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, railroad union, "Any worker within the jurisdiction who has served for at least 30 days, white of good moral character, sober and industrious."

Railway Mail association, an A. F. of L. union, "Any regular mail railway postal clerk or certified substitute railway postal clerk of the U. S. Railway Mail service, who is of the Caucasian race is eligible for membership."

Switchmen's Union of North America; A. F. of L., "Any white moral person of good moral character."

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, railroad union, "Any moral white person between the ages of 18-65."

Wire Weavers Protective Association of America, A. F. of L. "Applicants for membership must be Christian, white, moral of full age of 21."

Order of Railway Conductors, railroad union, "Any white man shall be eligible for membership."

Commercial Telegraphers Union of North America, A. F. of L. union; "Any white person of good moral character who is 16 years of age."

And the joker of them all, the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers, Helpers, an A. F. of L. affiliate; "Colored, where there are a sufficient number of colored helpers, they may be organized as an auxiliary local and be under the jurisdiction of the white local having jurisdiction of their territory; colored helpers shall not transfer except to another member auxiliary local composed of colored members and colored members shall not be promoted to blacksmiths or helping apprentices and will not be admitted to jobs where white helpers are now employed."

In these industries a large number of Negroes are shut out of employment because of the constitutions of the unions. Test cases are liable to be made to determine whether or not a union has the right to say who shall and who shall not have the right to work at a give ntrade heretofore closed because the applicant is not white.

Mr. Green's position on the Fair Practices committee will put him in a position to answer a lot of questions on the discriminatory practices prevailing in the A. F. of L.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mass Pressure

THAT'S WHAT'S NEEDED TO WHIP UNIONS INTO LINE, CAYTON CLAIMS

AUG 16 1941

By HORACE R. CAYTON

I HATE to keep harping away on this but if something isn't done about making the building craft unions accept Negroes (or at least set up little jim crow units for them) we won't get any defense building jobs regardless of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. William Green is on the committee, so I wish he would note this complaint which is very similar to the one about which I wrote of in St. Louis some weeks ago. My editors last week interpreted the fact that Green had got together a questionaire about the absence or presence of "the brother" in craft unions to mean that Green was going to fight the color line. Green will never "get that weak." In the first place, Green is not interested in doing anything which would disturb him or his payrollers. In the second place, to do it he would be signing his death warrant.

Mr. Cayton

WHY HE KEEPS HIS JOB

William Green keeps his job because he is willing to go along with anything from reactionary bureacrats to hoodlums and panders—he knows that any time he tried to change any fundamental policy of the A. F. of L., his services to it, as a respectable, sanctimonious hypocritical "front man," would abruptly cease. So dismiss Green from your mind. He is going to do exactly nothing and he can do exactly that much and no more. To the Committee on Fair Employment Practices he is a total loss, and maybe a detriment, for he will be in a position to stall and front for the captains of the various internationals of the A. F. of L.

BUT to illustrate, I am going t tell you about another plac where a specific governmental contract requiring Negro skilled building trades workers was sabotaged by the Building Trades of Greater Little Rock (I love that name). It was provided in the contract of the North Little Rock Housing Project that 18 per cent of the skilled and 75 per cent of the unskilled labor should be Negro. The contractor was willing to hire Negroes but skilled Negro workers were informed that they had to have union cards. Prior to the beginning of the Housing Project the Negro Carpenters' Committee on Organization made application to the carpenters' union for a charter. Fees for the charter were paid and a Negro local was scheduled to be organized when Wm. L. Hutcheson, general president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (and by the way he is one of the "big shots" who make Green jump at the end of a string) wired: "Don't install Negro local until you hear from general office."

ALL TURNED DOWN

With the encouragement of Clifford E. Minton, executive secretary of the Urban League, the Committee on Organization held together and successively asked for admittance to the white local, a separate local or working cards. All proposals were turned down. The tradesmen, however, for 15 months brought unrelenting pressure on the white local and on Hutcheson. Finally, Lester B. Granger of the national office of the Urban League bearded Hutcheson in his lair and forced a showdown. Finding his position indefensible and the pressure too strong, the "big shot" finally gave in and set up a Negro local which was organized July 17 in the Urban League headquarters.

AGAIN I want to ask the question, how will the Committee for Fair Employment Practices be successful when it took 15 months to put Negroes to work when it was provided in the contract—something which can never be hoped for—say in an airplane contract. Now of course the committee can put brother Green on the spot but a lot of good that will do. The only thing Green's bosses can understand is pressure—mass pressure and plenty of it. What the committee can do is to act as a sounding board and to bring out all of the facts so that groups of Negroes all over the country can organize and put pressure on the international unions and on the government. But the men should not sit back and expect the committee to solve anything. The best it can do is to articulate the problem for them.

And incidentally, here is another instance of a union that needs picketing. Let the Negro carpenters from all over the country who are being kicked around get together and send some of their numbers to picket Hutcheson's outfit this year—he will send his handyman Green around to talk business then.

351-1941 A. F. OF L.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AFL Pledges Full Cooperation in Defense Drive

Gov't Spokesman Hits Anti-Negro Discrimination in Some Unions

OCT 1 5 1941

By Louis F. Budenz
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

SEATTLE, Oct. 14.—Wholehearted cooperation with the Government's national defense activities to stop Nazi aggression was pledged officially by this convention of the American Federation of Labor today in a session which also heard an extensive discussion scoring discrimination against Negroes in certain affiliated international unions.

Added dynamic force was given to the debate on the latter subject by the solemn warning from Chairman Mark Ethridge of the Government's Fair Employment Practices Board that ways would be found if necessary, to compel unions as well as employers to end discrimination.

Appearing in person before the convention, Ethridge denounced job discrimination against minority groups as against democratism, harmful to national defense and as in effect an agreement with "Hitler's theory that Negroes are best fitted for slavery."

NATION CAN'T "AFFORD" IT

Then he declared to the convention: "We cannot afford to have that tragedy (of discrimination). We cannot afford to betray the ideal to which we subscribe.

"Our committee has the means to bring relcalcitrant manufacturers into line and undoubtedly means will be found to bring recalcitrant unions into line. But we do not want it that way. We want your full support and your full acceptance of the national policy."

The national defense resolution, adopted unanimously today, states that "unless the Nazi aggressors are stopped now," all the liberties of labor are endangered, and calls for "vigilance and alertness" on the part of labor to see that the defeat of Hitler is effected.

UP[illegible] STRIKE RIGHT

Coincidentally, the convention moved against any legislation that would limit or stamp out the right to strike, holding also that the same rights of collective bargaining are to be enjoyed in public employment as in undertaking under private management or control.

The continued activities of Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold in persecuting unions and union leaders under the Anti-Trust Act were bitterly scored by convention resolutions. If certain charges against Arnold or his aides are confirmed, the executive council is empowered to ask President Roosevelt to remove the Assistant Attorney General or his aides "from the service of the United States."

The charges have to do with the allegation that Arnold caused union leaders to be finger-printed and to be treated otherwise in a nasty manner while under arrest in the "anti-Trust" cases.

Strong sentiment was expressed by the delegates for the ending of all job discrimination against Negroes and other minority groups, when that matter came before them. Applause, cheers and whistling gave weight to that sentiment.

KLAN, BLACK SHIRTS SCORED

By something of an accident, this matter had arisen in the report of the Resolutions Committee shortly after Mr. Ethridge, speaking for the President's new board, had appeared on the rostrum. In his remarks, Ethridge had scored the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Shirts as against American principles, deploring them "as a Southerner." He declared that "the defense effort has made us realize that if democracy is not to be decadent, as Hitler says it is," it must extend its benefits to all the people.

Speaking specifically of the "twenty milion Negroes, almost one-seventh of our population," he said that "unless you and I are vigilant," they will be denied their full opportunity and right to participate in the defense of our country.

After citing a number of "notorious cases" of discrimination on the part of employers and also on the part of some unions, Ethridge concluded:

"I ask you, as representatives of millions of your fellow workers," to extend to the minorities "the full benefits, without reservation, in the defense employment which you pledged a year ago. Representing the President's committee, I urge you to abolish all the devices of constitution or ritual by wihch your fellow workmen are denied that security, that happiness and that full participation in national life and in the benefits of freedom which they are as ready to defend with their lives as other Americans are."

The Resolutions Committee of the convention, however, had recommended that a resolution, calling for the appointment of an AFL committee to investigate discrimination in international unions, not be adopted. In its place, the committee again proposed a continuance of that "education" which was recommended at New Orleans last year.

This brought President A. Philip Randolph of the Sleeping Car Porters to his feet, with the most aggressive plea against discrimination that he has ever made before an AFL convention. Randolph read off a list of numerous cases of discrimination by unions, mentioning specifically the metal trades unions in general, the International Association of Machinists, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in certain cities and many others.

Particularly did he cite the case of the Tampa Shipbuilding Co., stating that the Ku Klux Klan is in control of the AFL central labor body in that city and that the union contract had caused 600 Negroes to the deprived of their jobs. He specifically challenged President John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Department, who is also Secretary of the Resolutions Committee, to "explain to the American people how this discrimination can be permitted." Randolph also charged discrimination by the machinists at the Boeing Aircraft plant in Seattle, and demanded of President Harvey W. Brown of that organization to explain that situation.

In reply, Frey contended himself with pointing to the discrimination existing in churches, and in saying that such cannot be stamped out in a day. He said the resolution was rejected because it would open the way for "open hearings" which would injure the AFL's effort to organize the Negro workers.

WOLL IN LAME REPLY

Matthew Woll, as chairman of the Resolutions Committee added that the committee was without power to interfere with the jurisdictions of the autonomous international unions. and that is why it must rely on "educational methods," in which he claimed progress had been made.

President Green stated that "the AFL as a national body" is definitely "opposed to discrimination" and stated that he would remove any officer of a Federal Labor Union who practiced such discrimination. But he said it was impossible to control the international unions except by educational means. Green also deplored the fact that in the Ford Motor campaign, the AFL had been accused of discrimination against Negroes.

President William Hutcheson of the Carpenters said that Randolph had not given the whole picture, that there are many Negroes in his organizations. But in doing this, Hutcheson applied to the Negro people a term which in itself betrays race prejudice and which is rightly resented by the Negroes. This aroused Randolph to express contempt for Hutcheson's attempt to make him waver on this question.

In answer to Green, the president of Sleeping Car Porters' pointed out that while it is true that the AFL does not discriminate in the small Federal Labor Unions that nevertheless last year the convention made the Negro freight handlers give up their Federal Unions and join the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. In that organization, Randolph charged, the Negro workers can now have membership but are not permitted to vote in the affairs of the International Union.

Although the delegates had expressed enthusiastic sympathy with the idea of ending all discrimination by the applause which they accorded all remarks along that line, the rule of routine prevailed in the vote. The recommendation of the Resolutions Committee was adopted, though with a larger negative vote than has been seen on any question in any recent AFL convention.

GREEN PLEDGES ACTION

Even this vote was obtained only after both Woll and Frey had indicated that more work would be done this coming year against discrimination,' and after Green had pledged himself "everlastingly and without interruption" to devote his energies to wipe out such discrimination.

Jurisdictional frictions, after all, finally broke out in the session today. Frank X. Martel, of the Detroit Central Body brought to the attention of the convention the quarrel with A. D. Lewis' United Construction Workers Union, CIO. Martel contended that the Currier Lumber Co. had gone into the contracting business and had presented their company union to Lewis' organization, with the head of the company union becoming the head of the Lewis union. The Currier Co. had then bid lowest on a contract from the government, Martel charged at a price below any reasonable costs.

After it had looked as though a truce had been established between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and the International Association of Machinists over their long quarrel about the dismantling of building machinery, that dispute also hit the floor late this afternoon.

The resolutions committee itself was taken aback by the machinists' sudden objections to the committee's recommendations that "the conferences be continued which are now being carried out." The IAM views were overwhelmingly defeated, however, and the committee upheld.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

OPM's Pact With A.F.L. Unions Seen As Blow to Negro Workers

OCT 18 1941

WASHINGTON (Special)—Thurman Arnold, the trust-buster of Justice this week is being urged of Justice hist week is being urged to investigate the virtual closed shop agreement granted by the OPM to the building trades union of the A. F. of L. and effect on the Negro workers, the Amsterdam Star-News learned this week.

The matter is of grave importance to the Negro, it was pointed out, because many of the A. F. of L. building trade unions limit their membership to members of the white race through constitutional provisions, ritual and other means.

Specific instances in which certain unions exclude Negroes were cited in the naming of units in St. Louis and Milan, Tenn., where the Carpenters' Local No. 259, of Jackson, Tenn., refused to grant clearance to any Negro workers in spite of the expressed willingness of the company to hire colored labor; in Chicago where plumbers' local No. 130 bars Negro members, and in Joliet, Ill., where local 167, electricians' union refused clearance to Negro electricians.

Others named were the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 89, Mobile, Ala.; Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Baltimore, Md., and Omaha, Neb., and Carpenters and Joiners, of Washington D. C.

It was charged that prejudice on the part of A. F. of L. labor unions invades the aircraft industry and quoted the ritual of the International Association of Machinists contracted by Boeing Aircraft Company, Seattle, Wash., says:

"I further promise that I will never propose for membership in this association any other than a competent white candidate."

The same union is in control at the Vultee aircraft plant in Nashville, Tenn., and at neither plant are Negroes doing production work. Through the same machinists union Negroes have been barred at the Bethlehem Shipyards, San Francisco, Cal. Responsibility for clearing up the situation is at the door of the Government in view of the President's executive order.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

AFL Director Brands Negroes As 'Labor Evil'

NEW YORK.—Citing remarks of Harry O'Reilly, regional director of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago, as "insulting to colored people and a menace to the unity of pro-labor forces," the N.A.A.C.P. has requested that President William Green of the A.F. of L., officially and publicly rebuke O'Reilly and Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor

O'Reilly is reported as having said to a committee from the Chicago N.A.A.C.P. branch: "I consider the Negro an evil rather than an asset to organized labor. I don't believe all of this discrimination exists against the Negro; if it does, it is the Negro's fault and also his fight."

O'Reilly is also reported as having used profanity freely to the committee, which contained women, and to have used the word "nigger."

The N.A.A.C.P. letter labeled O'Reilly "ignorant as well as insulting," and declared that discrimination against Negroes by A.F. of L. unions was well known throughout the labor movement, had been discussed at numerous A.F. of L. conventions, including the convention just closed in Seattle, Wash., and had been the subject of numerous official statements and letters by President Green's office.

"In the light of this history," said the N.A.A.C.P. letter, "it is ridiculous for Regional Director O'Reilly to say that he does not believe discrimination exists against Negroes in the A.F. of L."

The N.A.A.C.P. also asserted that there had been "almost daily" discrimination against Negro workers by A.F. of L. unions since the launching of the national defense program. Particular stress was laid upon the fact that the A.F. of L convention, which closed in Seattle October 16, met under the shadow of the Boeing aircraft plant where Negroes have been repeatedly excluded from employment, not by the Boeing company, but by the A.F of L. aeronautical workers union.

The N.A.A.C.P. letter reminded President Green of the powerful anti-labor forces at work in the country, of the anti-labor legislation pending in Congress and of the appeals which have been made to Negro Americans to help defeat this legislation.

The letter declared that Negroes were willing to support organized labor when organized labor demonstrated that it would treat Negro workers without discrimination.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ASKS U. S. PROBE OF A. F. of L. MONOPOLY ON CONSTRUCTION JOBS

OCT 18 1941

NEW YORK, Oct. 16—The effect on colored workers of the virtually closed shop agreement granted by the Office of Production Management to the Building Trades Union of the American Federation of Labor was urgently requested for inclusion in the investigation of monopolistic practices being conducted by Thurman Arnold of the U. S. Department of Justice, by the NAACP on October 10.

The NAACP pointed out the grave importance of the matter to Negro workers because many A. F. of L. building trade unions completely deny membership to Negroes through constitutional provisions, ritual and other means.

LIST CASES OF EXCLUSION

In support of its request, the

Association named specific instances of exclusion by A. F. of L. unions in St. Louis; in Milan, Tenn., where the Carpenters' Local No. 259 of Jackson, Tenn., refused to grant clearance to any Negro worker inspite of the expressed willingness of the company to hire colored labor; in Chicago, Ill., where Plumbers Local No. 130 bars Negro members, and in Joliet, Ill., where Local No. 167, Slectricians Union, refused clearance to Negro electricians.

Others named were the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 89, Mobile, Ala.; Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers, Baltimore, Md., and Omaha, Neb., and Carpenters and Joiners of Washington, D. C.

OCT 18 1941

The NAACP said that prejudice on the part of A. F. of L. labor unions invades the aircraft industry, and quoted the ritual of the International Association of Machinists, contracted by Boeing Aircraft Company, Seattle, Wash., which says:

"I further promise that I will never propose for membership in this Association any other than a competent white candidate."

The same union is in control at the Vultee Aircraft plant in Nashville, Tenn., and at neither plant are Negroes doing production work. Through the same machinists' union Negroes have been barred at the Bethlehem Shipyards, San Francisco, Calif.

The NAACP placed responsibility for clearing up the situation on the Government in view of the President's executive order.

351-1941

A.F.L.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Green's Dilemma

The appointment by the President of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor to the six-man "fair labor practices" committee to conduct investigations of alleged discriminatory labor practices, unquestionably has placed this leader of labor's aristocratic craft unions, in a most embarrassing position.

History records that employers, by no means, have been the chief offenders in violating the sacred American right to work, by erecting stupid and unnecessary barriers against American workers of color.

Many times employers have been willing to hire Negro workers, but have been denied the opportunity by adamant and prejudiced union officials. And none of the groups of organized labor have been quite as stubborn in their determination to keep out black skilled workers as has Mr. Green's.

True, this policy was inherited by Mr. Green when he fell heir to the throne left vacant by the late Samuel A. Gompers. But Mr. Green during all of the years he has headed the AFL has not taken the first step to erase these unfair discriminations.

The strongest brotherhoods and craft organizations of the AFL have been allowed to write into their constitutions such membership limiting clauses as: "Any white person . . . . of good moral character."

Some of these craft unions, following the pattern later adopted by Mr. Hitler even exclude workers of the Jewish race as well as Negroes.

Thus we find Mr. Green in a most delicate situation. How can he assume a bold leadership in demanding that employers lower employment color barriers, when the organization he heads pioneered in erecting them — and is holding on to them?

There is but one path open for the American Federation of Labor president to get out of his present dilemma. And that path is the establishment of sound American principles in the various member brotherhoods of his organization. Spiteful color barriers must be lowered and all workers no matter what their race, religion, or national origin might be, allowed to become members on equal footing.

JUL 31 1941

Unless Mr. Green follows this obvious path, his denunciations of discriminating employers will be of little real value.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Green Probing Jim Crow In Federation Unions

WASHINGTON, D. C. (SNS)—As a result of the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt on June 25th, under which a Fair Employment Practice Committee has been established composed of six members of which William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor is one, a questionnaire has been sent out by President [illegible] to all national and international unions for the purpose of securing information about the number of Negroes who are members of AFL unions, the extent to which Negroes participate in the committees that run and regulate the activities of the unions and the extent to which Negroes attend the various national conventions.

AUG 5 1941

Questions such as the following are included in the questionnaire:

Is there any requirement in the constitution of your organization requiring citizenship, creating any discrimination against Negroes creating discrimination against any other race, prohibiting any discrimnation because of race? If so please quote the provision. If not, is there a provision prohibiting discrimination—please quote.

Is there any provision in your bylaws, ritual or elsewhere requiring discrimination against Negroes? Any other race? Quote provision

AUG 6 1941

This information will be available for the Fair Employment Practice Committee in attempting to meet this question of discriminations against Negroes by the trade unions.

This is the most comprehensive and far-reaching step yet taken by the American Federation of Labor to gather reliable and vital data on this question.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TRADESMEN KEPT FROM DEFENSE WORK

~~OCT 4~~ 1941

Union Passes Buck To Locals Practicing Discrimination

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Carpenters and painters of the Negro race have not had the benefits of big defense and governmental building programs they should have enjoyed because of the prejudices of AFL unions which dominate these trades.

Throughout the land, where defense housing projects are going up, there has been trouble with the carpenters' unions.

35

True in the deep South, there are Negro carpenters' unions affiliated with the AFL as in Dallas, but they are not recognized by the white union there and there is no cooperation between the two groups.

Here in Washington, Negro carpenters are not permitted to join the union, but they are allowed to join up in Baltimore. However, a Baltimore union card is not good on a Washington job.

Macon, Ga., is another sore spot as far as the carpenters are concerned. And St. Louis is not far behind in its discriminatory practices.

Using the separate locals as subterfuges, the AFL carpenters, organized as the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, viciously keep Negroes out of employment, and since fully 75 per cent of the construction of defense housing is in frame housing, the unfairness of the situation squarely presents itself.

The building trades have been particularly offensive in their treatment of the Negro and this is especially true with the carpenters union and the painters union as well.

OCT 4 1941

However, the trowel trades have not been as vicious as the carpenters, but there is little work in this particular field in the defense housing construction plans.

Last July, several of the big agencies of the government signed an agreement with the AFL Building Trades unions which covers all defense work, as well as all governmental construction. Nowhere in this agreement is any mention made of Negroes working on these contracts. At the time, the CIO was "frozen out" and had no part in signing the agreement which permits the AFL to dominate the building trades field as far as the government is concerned.

But the unfair practices of the carpenters is one of the highlights of the entire miserable plan under which the AFL operates permitting "jim crow" unions and then not allowing them to work even on government contracts where the policy of the government is to see that all minority groups get work.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Keeping Up the Fight

The American Federation of Labor again refuses to order the unions of which it is made up to drop the color line. This reform is vigorously pushed at each meeting by A. Philip Randolph and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, but on the excuse that some of the unions, the railroad big four for instance, are free to do as they please, the Federation does not act.

However progress is being made toward real democracy in labor circles. Organizations like the carpenters and masons which have no constitutional ban against Negroes, but which have barred them in many localities, are opening their doors. In time they will add their influence to the Federation units which already are in favor of wiping out the color line. Finally it will disappear.

OCT 24 1941

Remembering the long road which workers had to travel before they reached the position they now occupy, Negroes have no reason to be hopeless about the A. F. of L. Any new social order takes time. To the individual among us, the 75 years since emancipation is a long time. But workers have been many hundred years getting the brass collar of serfdom off their necks.

Our full participation in what our neighbors enjoy—we call it our right as American citizens—is not to be gotten like manna from heaven. We must grub for it. The harder we strive and the more intelligently, the quicker we will get it. Rights in this very practical age belong only to those who maintain them. We would have Randolph keep up the fight, because it is fair and American that all shall have a chance to work.

OCT 24 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

GREEN FIGHTS AFL 'COLOR LINE'

35a

Inquires Into Union Practices, Rules

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 7—As a result of the Executive order issued by President Roosevelt on June 26, under which a Fair Employment Practice committee has been established composed of six members, of which William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, is one, a questionnaire has been sent out by President Green to all national and international unions for the purpose of securing information about the number of Negroes who are members of A. F. of L. unions, the extent to which Negroes participate in the committees that run and regulate the activities of the unions and the extent to which Negroes attend the various national conventions. Questions such as the following are included in the questionnaire:

Is there any requirement in the constitution of your organization requiring citizenship—creating any discrimination against Negroes—creating discrimination against any other race—prohibiting any discrimination because of race? If so, please quote the provision. If not, is there a provision prohibiting discrimination—please quote.

Is there any provision in your by-laws, ritual or elsewhere requiring discrimination against Negroes? Any other race? Quote provision.

Are your local unions authorized to make their own regulations on such standards?

Are Negroes employed in your jurisdiction?

Does discrimination exist regardless of constitution or rules?

Are Negroes employed on the same work or jobs as the white members of your union?

Are they employed on skilled work—semi-skilled—unskilled?

Are Negroes permitted to become apprentices in your jurisdiction? If so, are there any?

Are there Negro learners employed in your jurisdiction who are getting related instruction in the schools?

Is there any difficulty getting the schools to give Negroes instruction supplementing work training?

Give approximately your Negro membership? What percent of your total membership?

Are Negroes organized in separate unions?

Are Negro members organized in unions with white workers?

Do you have Negro organizers?

Have Negro representatives been elected to your national executive board? If so, give number, names and offices.

Is there any wage differential in the case of Negroes?

Are Negro members admitted into all divisions of your jurisdiction? If excluded for any reason, state reason and why.

Are your Negro members in the South—the North?

Is segregation favored by the Negroes—by the whites?

Do Negro members hold office in local unions? Approximately number of locals? Approximately number or proportion of officials? If possible, list unions having Negro officials, giving office and name of Negro holding it.

Do you have Negro members elected as representatives in conventions?

What proportion of the total were Negroes at the last two conventions?

Convention date?—Total number of delegates?—Number or proportion of Negro delegates.

Name of organization reporting — Official Title.

This step on the part of President Gren of the American Federation of Labor, in attempting to determine the extent to which Negroes are victims of discriminations practiced by trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, will make available valuable information for the Fair Employment Practice Committee in attempting to meet the question of discriminations against Negroes by the trade unions.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Horizon

BILL GREEN MAY PROVE A "SAVIOR" IN NEW ROLE TO END LABOR BIAS

BY P. L. PRATTIS

AUG 16 1941

35-47

OF COURSE, there will be those disposed to give scant credit to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, for the recent questionnaire which he sent all AFL unions to obtain details on Negro membership and evidence of both exclusion and discrimination.

The argument will doubtless be advanced that President Green's heart is not in what he is doing or he would have done it before. He has been president of the American Federation of Labor many years. In the present instance, it does not seem to this writer that the present or past attitude of Mr. Green is of sufficient importance to merit debate. If one wants to be fair, it must be admitted that the presdent of the AFL is a figurehead. Almost any man placed in the position would be a figurehead. The leaders of the national and international unions, Hitlers and Stalins in their domains, do as they please and pay a president to do as they say. The structure of the AFL robs the president of power. He can object and he can quit and let another flunky take his place. That doesn't make good sense where $50,000 a year is involved.

Mr. Prattis

AUG 16 1941

PROUD [illegible] NEW ROLE

As soon as Mr. Green sensed that he had any power, it seems to this writer, Mr. Green acted. There were some, I'd be willing to wager, who might have argued that appointment of Mr. Green to the Committee on Fair Employment Practice would have embarrassed him. I make bold to claim that he is proud of his new job. He's been kicked around so much that he has doubtless confided to his intimates that he'll show somebody something, now that he has some federal authority behind him.

THE BIG point to be noted is that just as soon as he was given the authority and the backing he moved. For more than 20 years Negroes have been complaining to Mr. Green about discrimination in the AFL unions. He has expressed concern, made pious promises and done exactly nothing. Now, instead of going through his files to recover the letters of the late Dr. Robert R. Moton, of Walter White, Eugene Kinckle Jones, A. Phillip Randolph and Lester Granger, he swings into first gear, as a member of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice and demands to know from the unions themselves if and how they are discriminating against Negroes.

AUG 16 1941

MAY PRODUCE HOPE-FOR-RESULTS

It will be interesting to observe how the unions respond to this boldness on the part of the erstwhile kitten.

IF MR. GREEN gets the action he is demanding, Pegler might see fit to recommend that the government place him in a position where he will have the authority to clean out the crooks in the AFL. After all, Hitler was nothing but a plasterer until he gripped some power in his hand.

Another factor not to be overlooked is the significance of Mr. Green's action in relation to the workings of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Obviously, Mr. Green thinks his membership on the Committee entitles him to speak his piece and make his demands. The audacity of the Committee, if all the members show such alacrity in springing from the norm as Mr. Green has displayed, will undoubtedly give it an elan and a strength not perceived in the words of the President's order. In other words, bulwarked with such "nerve" as Green's, the Committee may do more, rather than less, than we have expected of it.

35i-1941

A.F.OF L.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AFL LEADERS SAYS NEGROES BARRED IN BREWERY UNION

Offers $100 For Bona-Fide Negro Memberships and "Eat" The Card.

FEB 1 1941

Ed Denmon, business agent for the Teamsters Union Local 367, affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, told the Negro Beer Dealers Association when he was questioned as to why Negroes were not permitted to drive trucks in Houston that the teamsters union had no constitutional provisions barring Negroes as members and had no objections to Negroes driving beer trucks and that several were already driving soda water trucks and others would be put on in the near future but, the Brewery's union also of the AF of L had constitutional provisions barring Negro membership.

When someone told him workers at the Grand Prize were bona-fide members of the brewery union, he said they were not and that he would give $100 for proof that any Negroes were bona-fide members, not only that but he would eat all the cards showing they were. The cards, he said, that Negro members carried would only be recognized at the points where they were issued. In other words, membership cards an be taken up and a bona-fide worker can be placed instead of workers who belong to branch organization.

Says Denmon Wrong

A prominent Negro member of the Brewery workers union at the Grand Prize Company, upon question by a Labor News reporter as to Denomon's statement said, "Mr. Denmon is wrong. We are bona-fide. Our reports are sent to Cincinnati and published in the official bulletin o the union. We are recognized anywhere on a similar job where the brewery workers union controls. Mr Denmon is gonna have to caugh up $100 because I know we are bona-fide out here, and, we get recognition."

BATTLE LEVELED AGAINST A. F. of L.

FEB 1 1941

Courier
Pittsburgh Pa

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 30.—An intensified fight has been launched by local Negroes for the employment of race workers on the proposed low-cost housing project to be known as Carr Square Village, contracts for which are scheduled to be let Saturday, February 1.

Expressing the fears of the colored citizenry of St. Louis that they would be left holding the bag as far as work is concerned when the contracts were let, a group of local leaders met with Berry Cravens, executive director of the St. Louis Low-Cost Housing Authority, Saturday, in an effort to learn just what protection might be given to them.

It had been rumored that the American Federation of Labor ruled contractors would probably get the preference on jobs, a matter that will mean that the promised skilled labor percentage would hardly be realized to say nothing of the percentage of common labor as set forth in the contracts. It was also pointed out that Negroes should be given a larger percentage of jobs, even more than those agreed upon in the protective Federal clauses, because apparently reliable sources indicate that Negroes will be given only a small share—if any at all—of the work on the Clinton Peabody (white) project soon to get underway.

Meantime, severe criticisms are benig heaped upon Frank L. Williams, race member of the St. Louis Housing Authority, for seeming inactivity on behalf of the race and their rights in the various aspects of the Housing Authority's program for low-cost housing such as appraisers of land, examiners of titles, and the like, as well as the actual construction work.

Cravens, who appeared impressed by the conference, was informed that the American Federation of Labor had a hostile attitude toward Negroes; in fact, the charters of practically all of the A. F. of L. unions in the Greater St. Louis area restrict membership to "white only."

It was further pointed out that the Negroes of the Greater St. Louis area were quite concerned about getting jobs, a matter accentuated by the difficulty encountered by members of the racial group in obtaining employment in the new T.N.T. project near St. Charles, Mo.

In attendance at the meeting were: S. L. Tyler, president of the St. Louis Business League; Prof. E. L. Myers, Sumner High School; Cornelius Perry, CIO organizer; James Nash, CIO regional director, and C. S. Stovall, local newspaperman.

The CIO has informed the public through the daily and race press that it is definitely in favor of granting jobs to all, regardless of racial identity.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Brotherhood Beats AF of L in Coast Line Fight

JAN 18 1941

BALTIMORE

By a 65-61 secret ballot vote, the Brotherhood of Dining Car Employees, an independent union, defeated the efforts of Local No. 495, A.F. of L. dining car employees union, to oust it as bargaining agent of the cooks and waiters on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

The election was conducted by the National Mediation Board during the last fifteen days of December but the results have just been certified.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
April 6, 1941

Negro Local to Receive Charter on Wednesday

Richmond's first Negro local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America will receive its charter in ceremonies at 2 East Marshall Street at 8 P. M. Wednesday. H. Y. Morse, business manager of Local No. 388 of the carpenters, will preside at the installation.

Two other Negro carpenters' locals already are in existence in Virginia—one at Norfolk and one at Newport News.

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

NEGRO CARPENTERS GET ~~A. F. OF L.~~ CHARTER AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

MAR 27 1941

MR. HENRY W. BLUMENBERG, General Representative of the A. F. of L. Union announced at a special meeting of Union officials, carpenters and government authorities at Hampton Institute last week, that the American Federation of Labor has granted a charter to the first Negro local of Carpenters and Joiners Union in Virginia.

MAR 27 1941

Discrimination against Negro carpenters in the Peninsular area and in other parts of the United States was brought to the attention of government and union officials by a meeting in February of the Hampton Institute Builders Conferences and the National Builders' Association. This meeting which focused national attention on discriminatory practices brought instant response on the part of government labor experts in Washington, which resulted in the present negotiations between A. F. of L. and skilled Negro carpenters.

Only one other such Negro local of this American Federation of Labor union in the United States has been reported. It is located in Baltimore and was organized by Edward S. Lewis of that city. Mr. Lewis also rendered aid in the negotiations which resulted in the organization at Hampton Institute.

MAR 27 1941

It is to be greatly deplored that in this great nation of ours, which has become the "arsenal of democracy" for the world, that a race group must be handicapped in securing places of employment, even for its skilled workers. The members of our race are barred from membership in organized labor. Unions which have monopolies on the plants that have Government contracts for National Defense Production. Nevertheless it is heartening when we learn that through persistence and perseverance the doors of opportunity can be opened.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE AFL UNION WINS RACE FIGHT AFTER CIO FAILS

APR 1 2 1941

38

Birmingham Group, Officered and Led By White Men, Gets Equal Pay and Removal of Job Ban at Ingalls Iron Works.

BIRMINGHAM, April 10—(ANP)—Labor news of a startling nature was created in this southern industrial city recently when an A. F. of L. union, officered and led by white men, successfully went to bat for several hundred Negro workers after the CIO had failed to improve Negroes' working conditions over a three-year period.

APR 1 2 1941

Demanding equal pay for equal work and the removal of job and training restrictions from Negro steelworkers, the A. F. of L. union, Local 539 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron workers, voted to strike against the Ingalls Iron works here and tie up more than $48,000,000 worth of national defense contracts held by the Ingalls interests here and in Pascagoula, Miss.

APR 1 2 1941

The threatened strike was averted by the Office of Production Management after the NAACP had called the situation to the attention of the office of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant to Sidney Hillman. The union emerged victorious from the dispute after winning a 12½ per cent wage increase for the Negro workers and a six per cent increase for the white workers.

Of greater significance, however, was the union's action in winning a reclassification of all the workers in the plant — assuring Negroes equal pay for equal work—and also the removal of all bans against Negro workers in the Ingalls Iron Works Apprentice school.

The Negro steel workers, comprising 68 per cent of the 700 workers in Ingall's two Birmingham plants, were organized by the CIO in 1937, mainly through the efforts of L. H. Britt, veteran Negro steel worker who is now special representative for the A. F. of L. local. According to Britt, Negro skilled workers in the plant were classified and paid as "helpers" despite the fact that they performed mechanic's work.

APR 1 2 1941

"We joined the CIO" Britt said, "because they promised to rectify this situation. They said they would fight for reclassification of all workers so that Negro steel workers would have economic equality. They didn't do this though. And although the CIO held a contract at Ingall's for more than two years, the only raises we Negroes got were those which the Wages and Hour law forced Mr. Ingalls to pay."

APR 1 2 1941

Last summer, after three vain attempts to force the CIO representative to raise the question of reclassification with the Ingalls management, the Negro workers went over in a body to the A. F. of L. union which agreed to raise this question. In an election ordered by the National Labor Relations board last September, Local 539, supported by the Negro workers, defeated the CIO by a three to one vote as the bargaining agent in the Ingalls plant.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The AFL Again

BILL GREEN MERELY OFFICE BOY—HAS NO POWER TO BREAK BAR

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

AUG 23 1941

33

I AM BACK on the A. F. of L. again this week. I have been griping about people who keep talking about the A. F. of L. as if it is an organization to be appealed to and which can do smething about forcing the various member unions to drop their color barrier. As I pointed out, William Green is just the front man who is hired to hear the complaints of Negroes and any other group who want to get in and are barred, and to draw the fire from the various independent unions. Over Green is the powerful group of bureaucrats who tell him what to do and would fire him the minute he would refuse to do it. Of course, Green could bring some moral pressure, but, of course, Green does not want to stick his neck out to do that.

Mr. Cayton

The American Federation of Labor is today essentially what it has been since 1886, voluntary national federation of autonomous unions loosely held together by rules and principles which fix the relations of the constituent elements to one another and to the central body. There are over 100 national and international unions with thousands of locals and millions of members throughout the country. In addition, the Federation has a number of local trade and federal labor unions, city central councils, State federations, etc.

POWERS LIMITED

AUG 23 1941

The function of the AFL is limited in its relation with the member organizations. The Federation was formed to promote the general interest of that section of organized labor and the four common purposes: mutual, need for adjudicating jurisdictional disputes, political exigencies and the need for co-operation in meeting the larger economic problems of the workers are the specific reasons for the organization holding together. To achieve these purposes the unions have given the Federation certain **limited powers** which are enforced through specially devised mechanisms. The separate unions in the AFL are willing to maintain a national federation only as long as their own autonomy is preserved and the powers of the national federation are limited.

AS THE national and international unions are inclined to interpret trade autonomy in a strict construtcionist sense, even those powers which the Executive Council and other central bodies of the Federation possess tend to be further curtailed. Fearing undue friction, the Federation avoids raising issues which might put its authority too severely to the test. It even hesitates to apply its disciplinary powers of temporary suspension or expulsion of a union. Either method has disadvantages involving a temporary or permanent loss of membership, a decrease in revenue, and internal friction.

CIO HAS ADVANTAGE

The situation is even more acute now that the CIO is competing with the Federation for power and members. Any possible disruption within the body would give the CIO another advantage. It is often said that the Federation took its model from the Constitution of the United States with its federal government and various State governments. But this is not a parallel case as the AFL has much less power or influence over the various unions than does the federal government over the States.

AUG 23 1941

THERE ARE a variety of attitudes toward the inclusion of Negroes as members in each of these autonomous national and international unions: some include Negroes; others exclude them where possible; some put them in jim-crow locals; and others bar them by constitutional provision. The AFL HAS ABSOLUTELY NO POWER TO DETERMINE THE RULES OF MEMBERSHIP OF ITS AFFILIATED MEMBERS, THAT IS DONE BY THE GROUPS THEMSELVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR OWN CONSTITUTIONS. Further the AFL is afraid, in most instances, to even raise the question.

As the colored man says, "I said that to say this," people should stop talking about the policies, etc., of the AFL and confine their discussion to SPECIFIC unions. Second, we should stop wasting time with Bill Green and take our grievances directly to the nationals and interntaionals involved. This is not the time to fool around with an office boy.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

AFL Use Negroes To Stop Job Competition

OCT 26 1941

35

The forcing of Negro building trades workers in the Chicago area into jim crow AFL locals to prevent them from competing with white workers in other sections of the city, though white workers would be allowed to compete with Negroes in the Negro community, is the main purpose of the renewed attacks upon Negro CIO construction workers, CIO building trades officials declared this week.

In substantiation of this astounding charge, Hammond Sevier and other CIO officials directed attention to the following facts:

The AFL unions, particularly the painters, are picketing the jobs of CIO Negro workers only. While white CIO workers in the building trades go unmolested, the AFL, it is charged, is paying pickets $11 per day to force janitors, milk and laundry wagon drivers to withhold services from tenants in buildings where CIO Negro labor is employed.

The AFL is said to have become unusually active when it was discovered that CIO Negro painters and decorators are working in Hyde Park, an area forbidden to Negro workers in the AFL. Strangely enough, Negroes are doing the picketing against the other Negroes. A Negro AFL union official is paying his sons, with money received from AFL headquarters in Chicago, $11 per day to do picketing.

Sevier also pointed out that A. P. Randolph, president of the powerful Pullman Porters union, has this week condemned on the floor of the AFL convention at Seattle, AFL painters and other building trades unions for discriminating against Negro labor. "The boys of the AFL are being duped," Sevier continued. "Since the defense program got under way, AFL permit cards have been given to a few of them after constant pressure by the federal government. When defense housing priorities go into effect forcing thousands of workers out of the building industry, everyone of the permit cards will be withdrawn and the AFL Negro building trades worker will be walking the streets again."

OCT 26 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

A Remnant Of the Slave System

OCT 18 1941

• Serious injury to national unity, as well as to Negro rights, was done when the AFL leadership at the Seattle convention refused to take firm action to wipe out racial discrimination from Federation's ranks.

The delegates showed marked enthusiasm for the elimination of the present barriers against Negro workers in more than 21 AFL unions. (In most of these unions, railroads for example, Negro members are barred altogether.) They responded sympathetically to the appeals of Mark Etheridge, head of the Government's Fair Employment Practice Committee, and to others who urged that the convention take steps to end this remnant of the slave system.

But through the maneuvers of several executive council members a mild resolution to investigate jim-crowism in the Federation was defeated. In its stead was passed a perfunctory and evasive statement against discrimination.

OCT 18 1941

It is natural that the spearhead of the attack upon the Negro people should come from William L. Hutcheson, member of the America First Committee. Hutcheson uttered a foul Ku Klux term against the Nefiro—an act closely akin to the anti-Semitism of his fellow appeaser Lindbergh.

OCT 18 1941

In failing to take a determined stand against this pro-fascist behavior, William Green and other AFL leaders made a concession to the appeasers and weakened the Federation's stand for all-out unity against Hitler. They gave the entire labor movement an undeserved blot and help to set the stage for government interference into the trade unions, at a time when organized labor has made great strides in the direction of full equality for Negro workers in unions.

AFL white workers are learning increasingly that racial bans are a weapon which the employers use against them, and should not rest until they are ended. The crucial task of defeating Hitler requires full unity and equality for the Negro workers in the factories and in the trade unions.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

AFL RIGGERS' UNION NOW BARS NEGROES

351

Refuses Worker Because Of Color; Case Taken To FEP Committee

SEP 29 1941

OAKLAND, Cal.—Because he was instructed by his superior officer to admit no Negroes, Filipinos, Japanese or Chinese, Assistant Business Agent Thompson of the A.F. of L. riggers' union with offices in this city, refused to allow Isaiah Brooks to file for membership in the union, according to Brooks' affidavit which he sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, last week.

Brooks said that he went to the riggers' union office here in September and made his application for membership. Thompson told him that he was instructed by the business agent "not to take any applications from Negroes, Filipinos, Japanese and Chinese."

SEP 29 1941

"I then showed Thompson my riggers' union card which I carried while working in the shipyards in 1918 and 1919," Brooks states. "Thompson informed me that he did not want to see it as it did not mean anything to him.

"He further stated that 'a lot of you colored fellows have been here to join the union and we have told them all the same thing.'"

When Brooks asked him if the only reason he was refused membership was on account of his color, Thompson answered, "Yes."

The case has been referred to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

351-1941

ARKANSAS

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

FBI Probes Violence Against Mill Workers And CIO Organizers

OCT 17 1941

Woodworkers Union Official A. F. of L. Prevented Him From Speaking at Meeting in Helena

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is conducting an inquiry into the recent mob action against Negro mill workers in Helena, Ark., where officials of the Chicago Milling company are reported to have run CIO organizers out of the state, in an unsuccessful effort to stop the International Woodworks Union from organizing the plant.

Wendell Berge, assistant United States attorney in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division, told the National Negro congress that he has sent a letter to the U. S. district attorney for Arkansas, advising him that the case has been turned over to the FBI for action. Berge said similar action has been taken by the division in the case of two CIO organizers who were beaten and tarred by vigilantes several weeks ago in Harriman, Tenn.

According to Harry Koger, international representative of the woodworkers union, an organized mob of 50 whites, comprising A. F. of L. men and officials of the Chicago Mill company, prevented him from addressing a union meeting composed mostly of Negro workers in Helena two weeks ago, and forced him and several other CIO officials to leave the state, after attempting to overturn their car. Police officials in Helena refused to protect them, Koger said.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FBI Investigates Mob Action Against Negro Workers In Ark.

OCT 18 1941

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 16—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is conducting an inquiry into the recent mob action against colored mill workers in Helena, Ark., where officials of the Chicago Milling company are reported to have run CIO organizers out of the State, in an unsuccessful effort to stop the International Woodworkers' union from organizing the plant.

Wendell Berge, assistant United States attorney in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division, said on Saturday that he has sent a letter to the U. S. District Attorney for Arkansas, advising him that the case has been turned over to the FBI for action.

Mr. Berge said that similar action has been taken by the division in the case of two CIO organizers who were beaten and tarred by vigilantes several weeks ago in Harriman, Tenn.

According to Harry Koger, international representative of the Woodworkers' Union, an organized mob of 50 whites, composed of AF of L men and officials of the Chicago Mill Company, prevented him from addressing a union meeting attended mostly by Negro workers in Helena three weeks ago and forced him and several other CIO officials to leave the State, after attempting to overturn their car. Police officials in Helena refused to protect them, Koger said.

351-1941 ASSOCIATED MASTER BARBERS OF AMERICA

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

JAN 30 1941

Barbers Union Lauded For Fairness As New Officers Are Installed

Associated [illegible]

The Associated Master Barbers of America were lauded last Sunday as one of the few unions in America which does not discriminate against Negroes, permits them to hold high offices in the setup and grants them the same privileges extended white members.

JAN 30 1941

These facts were revealed by Sib H. Jones, president emeritus of Local 829, Associated Master Barbers of America, who delivered the principal address at the installation of new officers of Local 829, at Wayland Temple Baptist Church, Master street near 23rd.

The officers were installed by Rev. C. M. Smith, pastor of Wayland Temple, who performed the duty in the absence of William Pinto, Philadelphia Chapter organizer and a member of the Barbers Board of the Philadelphia Department of Health.

Heading the list of new officers is John Moore, well known West Philadelphia barber, who was installed as president of Local 829. Other officers installed were: Walter Owens, vice president; P. H. King, secretary-treasurer; C. D. Lewis, recording secretary; Benjamin Myers, sergeant-at-arms, and George Wilder, chaplain.

Jones, who is also chairman of the trustees of Local 829, urged all local barbers to join the union for their own protection.

The Local was granted a charter in May, 1935, and since that time has paid out to its members hundreds of dollars in sick benefits. The present membership total is 35.

351-1941
Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD EMPLOYEES

NEGRO FIREMEN FEAR LOSS OF RAILROAD JOBS

JAN 24 1941

Revisions Sought in Labor Contracts Because of Diesels.

Fears of about 5,000 Negro railroad firemen in the south that they will be displaced through revision of existing labor contracts, because of introduction of Diesel engines, were accompanied by developments in various quarters yesterday.

In Washington, officials of the Southern Railway System, one of 19 railroads and terminals involved, conferred with representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen—the majority, white union organization—but declined to agree to the revision.

A meeting was held in Atlanta by Local No. 20, International Association of Railroad Employees, a majority, Negro union, on seeking an injunction, but no final decision was reached. It was said no court would enjoin an action not yet taken.

The central point was said to be that, since Negro firemen are not eligible to promotion as engineers under the existing contracts, they would be displaced entirely through the following four amendments proposed by the white brotherhood:

"1. Only promotable men will be employed for service as locomotive firemen or for service as helpers on other than steam power.

"When new runs or jobs are established in any service, only promotable firemen or helpers will be assigned to them.

"3. When permanent vacancies occurs on established runs or jobs in any service, only promotable firemen or helpers will be assigned to them.

JAN 24 1941

"4. It is understood that promotable firemen or helpers on other than steam power are those in line for promotion under the present rules and practices to the position of locomotive engineer."

The above excerpt from the daily Constitution is another effort that proves that the New Deal in Washington is trying to make America a white man's country, and the Negro aliens.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

BOYD DECLINES TO TRY NEGRO FIREMAN'S SUIT

Charged Railroad Brotherhood Violated Rights

MAR 13 1941

Federal Judge Boyd yesterday declined to try the suit of Ed Teague, negro railroad fireman of Louisville, Miss., against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, which Teague claims conspired with the G. M. & N. Railroad to deprive negro firemen of their seniority rights on that line.

Judge Boyd's decision was reflected in a ruling granting a motion by defense attorneys who contended that no Federal statute was violated in the matter and that a Federal judge has no jurisdiction in the case.

MAR 13 1941

The case, which previously was brought before Judge Martin at Jackson, arose from Teague's complaint asking for injunction damages for "fraud, breach of contract, breach of trust and violation of the Railway Labor Act."

Teague claimed in his bill that he and other negro firemen previously were guaranteed seniority rights which were violated when the Brotherhood and railroad reached an agreement whereby white firemen would have preference over negroes. The agreement, his attorneys contended, rose from the necessity of making new arrangements when Diesel-driven engines began replacing coal burners. The G. M. & N., rather than place firemen on the Diesel driven trains, agreed to give preference on the coal burners to members of the Brotherhood, which admits no negroes.

MAR 13 1941

Judge Boyd heard only the arguments on the motion yesterday. Attorneys Charles M. Bryan of Memphis and William P. Moss of Jackson, representing the defendants, argued that the case concerned a common law action and should be brought up in a court of the state.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

RACIAL CASE APPEALED

APR 13 1941

Negro G. M. & O. Fireman Charges Discrimination

CINCINNATI, April 12.—(AP)—Ed Teague, Lousiville, Miss., negro, Friday carried to the Sixth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals his fight against alleged racial discrimination in the labor policies of the Gulf & Ohio Railroad of Jackson, Tenn.

APR 13 1941

The District Court at Memphis on March 13 dismissed Teague's petition for an injunction to restrain enforcement of a "secret fraudulant compromise agreement of Jan. 5, 1938," which, Teague charged, set up a preferential plan giving white firemen of the railroad preference over negroes, regardless of vested seniority rights.

The alleged agreement was made between the carrier and Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, in which, Teague said, negroes are forbidden membership.

APR 13 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

ALA. FIREMAN DAMAGE SUIT FOR $50,000

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 18—Charging that an agreement between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and Louisville and Nashville Railroad had destroyed his seniority rights and those of other Negro locomotive firemen, Bester William Steele filed a petition through Atty. Arthur Shores in Chancery court Monday asking $50,000 damages against the brotherhood. He also seeks to have an injunction placed against the railroad and the brotherhood to prevent enforcement of the alleged secret and fraudulent agreement.

Steele, who has worked with the L & N since 1910, claims he was removed from his assignment and replaced with a white locomotive fireman, which resulted in a $50 month reduction in wages. The date for hearing the petition has not as yet been set.

SEP 21 1941

SEP 21 1941

351-1941
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN

Negro Workers Oppose Lily White Union

350

Race Men Would Have No Voice

PHILADELPHIA (ANP) — Five hundred colored workers employed by the Philadelphia Transportation company are in court here, counter-attacking the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, white AF of L union, whose constitution admits only "white" to membership.

Before the Pennsylvania Labor Relations board, the Independence lodge of the BRRT is trying to be declared the bargaining agent of the 500 Negroes and to have them under jurisdiction. But this same Independence lodge will not....and cannot....accept Negroes as members.

If the union wins it will mean that the colored men will pay dues and be under the jurisdiction of the BRRT affiliate, but will have no voice, either in local or national deliberations.

AUG 9 1941

Because there are several cases like this in the country where lily-white unions want to become spokesman for colored workers this labor dispute has national importance. Herbert E. Millen represents the workers, while Atty Theodore Spauling, president o the NAACP also counsels in th argument.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RANDOLPH SAYS WE MUST SUPPORT AID TO BRITAIN

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

FEB 8 - 1941

Negroes should support "all out aid," including the Lend-Lease Bill, to Great Britain, short of war, because she is fighting the cause of democracy, the only hope and salvation of minority groups

Mr. Randolph

Now, of course, there are those who say that this is an imperialist war, and that it does not make any difference whether the Allies or the Axis powers win, and that Great Britain has been and is an oppressor of the darker races.

It is true that this is an imperialist war, in the sense that Germany, Great Britain and Italy are imperialist nations, and that Great Britain has been and is an oppressor of the darker races. But it does not follow that Great Britain, Germany and Italy represent equal degrees of evil and danger to the darker races and to sound, humane, social, economic and political progress and the cause of peace in our modern world.

HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT BRITISH PAST

While I have no illusions about the past role of Great Britain in world affairs, in relation to the peoples of color, the stark, bald, forbidding facts of the past and present policies of Nazi Germany show and stress the superiority of the Germans or Nordic race to rule or ruin all other races, and their utter contempt and disdain for the Negro people, when Adolf Hitler, in "Mein Kampf," alludes to as sub-human, or half-apes.

When the Nazis swept over France, it was not long before they had pulled down the monument to Negro soldiers in Paris, and caused all Negroes to be ordered to leave the country, a country rich with the contributions of Negro genius and culture, including the monumental literary treasures of the great Alexander Dumas, and in recent contemporary times, Batouala of Rene Moran.

This is just a slight indication and measure of the difference between imperialist Germany and imperialist Britain, so far as Negroes are concerned. In other words, Hitler preaches and practices, unashamedly, his hellish hatred of all Negroes. He would have none of them.

Contrast with this the co-operation Britain is giving Emperor Haile Selassie, and the unconquerable people of Ethiopia, to expel the Fascist legions of Mussolini from their country and to reestablish the independence and sovereignty of this ancient and peace loving nation.

FEB 8 - 1941

ENGLAND GAVE HAILE SELASSIE AN ASYLUM

Britain was one of the few countries to give the Negus asylum when the hordes of Fascist Italy overran Ethiopia, and British soldiers and guns provided him protection at Khartoum, British headquarters in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, where he, together with British army and air men, and the chieftains of tribes planned the rebellion of Ethiopians against the wicked, tyrannical rule of the Italian usurper.

Landing by Britsh army plane, the Lion of Judah and his daughter, Princes Tsahi, in fulfillment of his prophecy, raised the red, yellow and green flag of his former kingdom, and began with British-aided Ethiopian tribesmen the long-awaited march against the Fascist conquerors.

SELF-INTEREST MOTIVATION OF ALL POWERS

There are those who cynically remark that England's support of the freedom of Ethiopia in this hour of her desperation is inspired by a selfish interest. There would be no point in denying this. It is true. But what is wrong with it? The motivation of all great power nations is self interest. Self interest is not to be condemned if it is not anti-social and reactionary. Here, the self interest of Great Britain takes the form of fighting to help restore the independence and liberty of a smaller, defenseless nation, and thereby serves the cause of humanity and justice, though, verily, this course of action be belated.

Moreover, it seems to be generally agreed by military and naval experts that the Battle of Britain constitutes the "first line of defense" of America, and I think, in the main, in our present world order, the claim is true.

Besides, by every standard of decency and civilization, democratic England is as different from totalitarian Germany and Italy as New York is from Georgia, or its concept and practice of the principles of the Brotherhood of Man, her imperialistic history notwithstanding.

Reliable reports indicate that West Indian Negroes are enlisted in the R.A.F., which is a step ahead of our own and of the Free and Home of the Brave, for college-bred, qualified Negro youth are still knocking at the door of America's air force, appealing for the right to fly to fight for Uncle Sam, but to no avail.

BRITISH LABOR TO EMERGE VICTORIOUS

And British labor, chastened, cleansed and reborn in this baptism of fire and trial, with the aid of America, will emerge from this war not only as glorious victors for the cause of free men and a free world, but also with the realization that the liberty, security and the future will never be safe for the white world until it is also safe for the world of the peoples of color. This is the lesson this war will teach the white world, worshiping at the altar of the false gods of racial bigotry.

Therefore, the Battle of Britain is the Battle of America, and the Battle of America is the Battle of the Negro, even though he is the victim of outrageous racial discriminations and is compelled to fight for every democratic right he enjoys as a loyal American citizen.

No group would suffer more from the dreadful darkness and tragic terrorism of a totalitarian world—Nazi, Fascist or Communist—than the Negro people, still struggling to win the full stature of American citizenship.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ORGANIZE COLORED FIREMEN

Move Taken to Protect Jobs; Other Railroad Workers Urged to Act.

APR 12 1941

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10—At the conference held here last week under the auspices of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a decision was reached to establish a Brotherhood Provisional Committee to organize colored locomotive firemen for the purpose of developing a railway labor organization, national in scope, for this class of railway employees.

The reason for the conference is the discrimination against colored locomotive firemen by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen and Firemen, which prevents them from becoming members of this organization, and denies them representation and the protection of their seniority rights.

APR 12 194

EX-FIREMAN TEAGUE'S CASE IS PRESENTED

Atty. Charles H. Houston, chief counsel for the Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen, Inc., and the International Association of Railway Employees, Inc., discussed the Teague Case in detail, pointing out that it was most vital and important, not only to the colored firemen, but to Negro railroad workers in general. He voiced hope and confidence in the victory of the fight in the Teague Case, which will provide for the protection of the seniority rights of colored firemen.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Randolph and Webster Help Negro Firemen

With a series of meetings in Birmingham, Ala., under the auspices of the Provisional Committee to Organize Colored Locomotive Firemen, a campaign to step up the organization of colored locomotive firemen will begin.

The program of organization will be carried on by Messrs. A. Philip Randolph and M. P. Webster, International officials of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Following their stay in Birmingham, they will go to Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah.

The problem of colored locomotive firemen maintaining their jobs on southern railroads is becoming more difficult as the weeks go by. From all sections, information comes of the continuous displacement of colored firemen of high seniority positions by junior white firemen upon the introduction of the Diesel engines.

It is against this situation that bids fair to eliminate all colored locomotive firemen from roads in the south that the Provisional Committee for the organization of colored locomotive firemen is waging its fight, concluded Randolph.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

RANDOLPH URGES NEGRO SUPPORT OF 'ALL OUT AID' TO GREAT BRITAIN

FEB 8

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Negroes should support all out aid,' including the Lend-Lease Bill, to Great Britain, short of war, because she is fighting the cause of democracy, the only hope and salvation of minority groups.

Now, of course, there are those who say that this is an imperialistic war, and that it does not make any difference wherther the Allies or the Axis powers win, and that Great Britain has been and is an opposer of the darker races.

It is true that this is an imperialistic war, in the sense that Germany, Great Britain and Italy are imperialistic nations, and that Great Britain has been and is an oppressor of the darker races. But it does not follow that Great Britain, Germany and Italy represent equal degrees of evil and danger to the darker races and to sound, humane, social, economic and political progress and the cause of peace in our modern world.

While I have no illusions about the past role of Great Britain in world affairs, in relation to the peoples of color; the stark, bald, forbiding facts of the past and present policies of Nazi Germany show and stress the superiority of the Germans or Nordic races, and their utter contempt and disdain for the Negro people, whom, Adolph Hitler, in Mein Kampf, alludes to as sub-human, or half-apes.

FEB 8 1941

When the Nazis swept over France, it was not long before they had pulled down the monument to Negro soldiers in Paris, and caused all Negroes to be ordered to leave the country, a country rich with the contributions of Negro genius and culture, including the monumental literary treasures of the great Alexander Dumas, and in recent contemporary times, Batualo of Rene Moran.

This is just a slight indication and measure of the difference between imperialistic Germany and imperialistic Britain, so far as Negroes are concerned. In other words, Hitler preaches and practices, unashamedly, his hellish hatred of all Negroes. He would have none of them.

Contrast with this the cooperation Britain is giving Emperor Haile Selassie, and the unconquerable people of Ethiopia, to expel the fascist legions of Mussolini from their country and to reestablish the independence and sovereignty of this ancient and peace loving nation.

Britain was one of the few countries to give the Negus aslyum when the hordes of fascist Italy overron Ethiopia, and British soldiers and guns provided him protection at Khartoun, British headquarters in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, where he, together with British army and air men, and the chieftains of tribes, planned the rebellion of Ethiopians against the wicked, tyrannical rule of the talian Usurper.

Landing by British ary planes, The Lion of Judah and his daughter, Princess Tsahi, in fulfillment of his prophecy, raised the red, yellow and green flag of his former kingdom, and began with British-aided Ethiopian tribesmen the long awaited march against the fascist conquerors.

FEB 8

There are those who cynically remark that England's support of the freedom of Abyssinia in this hour of desperation is inspired by a selfish interest. There would be no point in denying this. It is true. But what is wrong with it? The motivation of all great powers nations is self interest. Self interest is not to be condemned if it is not ani-socal and reactionary. Here, the self interest of Great Britain takes the form of fighting to help restore the independence and liberty of a smaller nation, and thereby, serves the cause of humanity and justice, though, verily, this course of action be belated.

Moreover, it seems to be generally agreed by military and naval experts that the Battle of Britain constitutes the 'first line of defense" of America and I think, in the main, in our present world order, the claim is true.

Besides, by every standard of decency and civilization, democratic England is as different from totalitarian Germany and Italy as New York is from Georgia, or its concept and practice of the principles of the Brotherhood of Man, her imperialistic history notwithstanding.

FEB 8 1941

Reliable reports indicate that West Indian Negroes are enlisted in the R. A. F., which is a step ahead of our own Land of Free and Home of the Brave, for college bred, qualified Negro youth are still knocking at the door of America's air force, appealing for the right to fly to fight for Uncle Sam, but to no avail.

And British labor, chastened, cleansed and reborn in this baptism of fire ad trial, with the aid of America, will emerge from this war not only as glorious victors for the cause of free men and a free world, but also with the realization that the liberty, security and he fuure will never be safe for the white world until it is also safe for the world of the peoples of color. This is the lesson this war will teach the white world, worshipping at the altar of the false gods of racial bigotry.

Therefore, the Battle of Britain, is the battle of America, and the batle of America is the battle of the Negro even though he is the victim of outraged racial discrimination and is compelled to fight for every democratic right he enjoys as a loyal American citizen.

No group would suffer more from the dreadful darkness and tragic terrorism of a totalarian world, Nazi, Fascist, or Communist, than the Negro people, still struggling to win the full stature of American citizenship.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sleeping Car Porters Hold Meet In Capital To Form Committee

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Plans to organize colored lomomotive firemen for the purpose of developing a national railway labor organization were completed last week at a conference held here, under the auspices of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

As a result of the conference a Brotherhood Provisional Committee will be appointed to organize the men. The conference was held to find a means of eliminating the discrimination against colored locomotive firemen by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen and Firemen, which prevents them from becoming members of the organization, and denies them representation and the protection of their seniority rights.

APR 10 1941

Randolph is Speaker

A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car porters, made the keynote speech at the opening session of the conference, which was held at the Twelfth Street YMCA, in which he outlined the plan of organization for colored firemen.

Charles H. Houston, chief counsel for the Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen, Inc., and the International Association of Railway Employes, Inc., discussed the case in detail, pointing out that it was most vital and important, not only to the colored firemen, but to Negro railroad workers in general. He voiced hope and confidence in the victory of the fight in the Teague Case, which will provide for the protection of the seniority rights of colored firemen.

APR 10 1941

Green Sends Representative

Because of emergency engagements on account of the rapid development of strikes on defense jobs, William Green, president, of the American Federation of Labor, was unable to speak, but sent in his stead Robert A. Watts, representative of the AFL at the International Labor Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

Watts called upon the Negro people to be less docile and to recognize the fact that they will have to fight for their rights. He also stressed the necessity of the workers of America including the Negro to strive for the preservation of democracy.

M. P. Webster, first international vice president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, pointed out that black locomotive firemen, like white locomotive firemen, will have to build one powerful organization to safeguard their rights He asserted that the plight of the colored firemen and Negro workers in the railroad industry in general was the result of economic causes and, chiefly, the lack of organization. If colored locomotive firemen had organized ten or fifteen years ago, they, instead of the white firemen, would now hold the collective bargaining rights on many of the railroads, he concluded.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Railroad Men Gain Support

OCT 4 1941

Locomotive Firemen Threatened With Loss of Jobs

Support of Mrs. Roosevelt and Mayor LaGuardia in the campaign to save the jobs of colored locomotive firemen on railroads in the Southeast and Southwest was announced at the national headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters' Provisional Committee for the Organization of Colored Locomotive Firemen this week.

Mrs. Roosevelt will act as Honorary Chairman and Mayor LaGuardia as Chairman of the Committee, it was said. The group seeks to mobilize sentiment in the interest of stopping the displacement of colored locomotive firemen, some of whom boast 30 and 40 years' service, by white firemen, many with less than a year's service.

According to A. Philip Randolph, chairman of the Brotherhood's committee, the firemen are being rapidly ousted through terms of a "non-promotable contract" between the railroads and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen which denies membership to Negroes.

OCT 4 1941

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sleeping Car Porters Sign New Contract

MAY 1 - 1941

May Open Discussions at Any Time To Benefit From War Prosperity

CHICAGO—In the Pullman Building here last Friday, a revised agreement for Pullman porters, maids, attendants, and bus boys was negotiated and signed by Champ Carry, executive vice-president for the Pullman Company and A. Philip Randolph, international president, for the Brotherhood.

This was the culmination of a period of negotiation covering five or more months. Because of sharp differences between the management and the representatives of the employes, negotiations were at one time broken off and plans were being perfected for the invocation of the services of the National Mediation Board by the Brotherhood to intervene for the settlement of the dispute, states Mr. Randolph.

MAY 1 - 1941

Increases Substantial

This became not necessary, however, and the negotiations continued, with the ultimate increases reaching nearly half a million dollars. Rules were secured increasing the in-charge porter's rate of pay from $13.50 a month to $20.25, which is a 50 per cent boost. Attendants confined to kitchen work also received a differential of $20.25, which represents a differential of this amount above what they formerly received, whereas before, attendants only received the established monthly rate of pay for work when confined in the kitchen. Porters assigned to training student porters and private car porters will also receive the in-charge differential of $20.25 per month.

The basic work month remains the same, but the elapsed time prior to compensation of punitive time at time and one-half was reduced from 20 to 10 hours. This change represents a considerable increase in income to the porter, especially those engaged in troop movements. Attendants deadheading, who formerly received the standard car work rate, under the revision of the contract will receive the established attendants' rate of pay, which is higher.

MAY 1 - 1941

Bus Boys Gain

Porters who double out of their district prior to the expiration of their layovers will not receive an additional day, but if they return after their run goes out they will receive "held for service" compensation, and in addition, one day layover which they lost by virtue of the double out, or pay for a second extra day.

Bus boys who operate on cars with attendants are now represented by the Brotherhood as a result of the extension of the jurisdiction of the scope in the agreement to cover this class of employes.

According to the representatives of the Brotherhood and Mr. Randolph, one of the most important features of the revision of the contract is that it was consummated through direct negotiations between the management of the Pullman Company, which showed a splendid spirit of cooperation, and the Brotherhood, without the intervention of the National Mediation Board.

MAY 1 - 1941

Vital Importance

This is of vital importance in the appraisement of the relationships between the management of the company and the organization, since it was the general belief that the first agreement, which was negotiated by the Brotherhood with the company, was only made possible because of the intervention and pressure of the Federal Government through the National Mediation Board.

According to Mr. Randolph, it was the belief among some of the porters that it would not be possible for the organization to negotiate a revision of the contract with the company without the intervention of the National Mediation Board. "However, it is apparent that this was not true," states Randolph.

Whereas the first agreement of the porters, maids, and attendants had a term of duration of 2 years, the revision of the agreement has no such term of duration, but is subject to change in compliance with the provision of the Railway Labor Act, which set up 30 days' notice as a condition for the reopening of conferences for negotiations.

MAY 1 - 1941

Hands Not Tied

The Brotherhood insists upon this arrangement so that the organization's hands will not be tied in the event that a wage movement is begun among railroad workers for pay increases. Under the present arrangement, if a wage movement should begin in the railway industry in the next 6 months or year, the Brotherhood can move in to secure these wage increases for the Pullman porters, maids, attendants, and bus boys upon 30 days' notice, without difficulty, concluded the porters' leader.

Members of the agreement committee that negotiated the contract for the Brotherhood were the international president; first international vice-president, M. P. Webster of Chicago; second international vice-president, Bennie Smith of Detroit; third international vice-president, E. J. Bradley of St. Louis; fourth international vice-president, C. L. Dellums of California; T. T. Patterson, claims adjuster for the Eastern zone of the Brotherhood and vice-president of the New York Division, and Ashley L. Totten, international secretary-treasurer.

MAY 1 - 1941

The effective date of the agreement is June 1, with rates of pay being retroactive **as of May 1.**

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TRAIN PORTERS WIN $500,000 INCREASE

MAY 3 - 1941

New Wage Contract Follows Five Months' Negotiation Between Pullman Company and Brotherhood —Nearly 50 Per Cent Increase.

CHICAGO, May 1—Negotiations over a five-month period were culminated here last week when the Pullman Company and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters signed an agreement giving porters, maids, bus boys and attendants over $500,000 in wage increases. The agreement was signed by Champ Carry, executive vice president of the Pullman Company, and A. Phillip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood.

MAY 3 - 1941

One of the most important features of the wage contract revision is that it was consummated through direct negotiations between the management and the Brotherhood without recourse to the National Mediation Board.

The new agreement has no time limit but is subject to change in compliance with the provision of the Railroad Labor Act, which set up 30 days' notice before the reopening of a conference for negotiations.

The contract provides for an increased rate of pay for porters-in-charge from $13.50 to $20.25 per month, and while the basic work month remains the same, elapsed time before overtime goes into effect is reduced from 20 to 10 hours. The agreement was extended to cover bus boys for the first time.

Members of the negotiating committee representing the Brotherhood were: M. P. Webster, Bennie Smith, E. J. Bradley, C. L. Dellums, T. T. Patterson and Ashley L. Totten. Representing the Pullman company were, Champ Carry, Geo. Kelley, B. H. Bowman and H. R. Larry.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

BEST EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

This March will take place July 1, and should have no less than 10,000 Negroes from all parts of the country participating. The Negro's stake in national defense is big, but to win our stake a bold and effective demonstration is necessary. As Mr. Randolph points out in a letter to the Negro press:

MAY 23 1941

"In this period of power politics, nothing counts but pressure, and still more pressure, through the tactics and strategy of broad organized aggressive mass action behind the vital and important issues of the Negro. To this end we propose that ten thousand Negroes march on Washington for jobs in national defense and equal integration in the fighting forces of the United States . . . The march will end in a huge demonstration at Lincoln's monument".

The call also urges local demonstrations and marches on City Halls and Councils. At the same time the committee sternly counsels against violence and ill-considered and intemperate action and the abuse of power.

Associated with Mr. Randolph in issuing the call are: Walter White, the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, Lester B. Granger, Frank R. Crosswaith, Layle Lane, Richard Parrish, Dr. Rayford Logan, and Henry K. Craft.

We have tried appeals to reason, as in the case of the National Urban League broadcast of a few weeks ago, and publicity appeals in the Negro press and such daily papers as PM. of last Wednesday, but so far these appeals have produced very meager results. Pressure on Congress and the President for an executive order against discrimination in industry because of race, is the only course left open to us.

MAY 23 1941

And in the interest of national unity, it is to the advantage of the whole country that the proscription against Negroes be lifted immediately. — NEW YORK AGE.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

$500,000 Boost In Pay Won By Pullman Porters

MAY 3 - 1941

~~MAY 3 - 1941~~

More than a half million dollars in pay increase for Pullman porters was won by the Brotherhood of Sleeping ~~Car Porters, an international~~ union when on April 18 in the Pullman building in Chicago, a revised agreement for porters, maids, attendants, and bus boys was negotiated and signed by Champ Carry, executive vice president of the Pullman company and A. Phillip Randolph, international president for the brotherhood.

This was the culmination of a period of negotiation covering five or more months. Because of sharp differences between the management and the representatives of the employes, negotiations were at one time broken off and plans were being perfected for the invocation of the services of the National Mediation Board by the brotherhood to intervene for the settlement of the dispute, according to Randolph.

MAY 3 - 1941

But the Pullman management, when advised that if after a certain time information was not received by the brotherhood to the effect that some substantial concessions might be made to the organization that may be satisfactory, the dispute would be referred to the National Mediation Board, the management, before the expiration of the time set by the brotherhood advised that it was their belief that with an open mind in approaching the problems confronting the management and the union, it was possible to reach an agreement mutually satisfactory. Thereupon, conferences for negotiation on the proposals submitted by the brotherhood and the management were resumed.

MAY 3 - 1941

Progress Gradual

. After long and hard debates day in and day out, definite progress was reflected in the settlement upon rule after rule, including monetary compensation as well as the clarification and refinement of working rules, observed the international president of the brotherhood at the international headquarters in New York City. Rules were secured increasing the in-charge porter's rate of pay from $13.50 a month to $20.25. which is a 50 per cent boost. Attendants confined to kitchen work also received a differential of $20.50, which represents a differential of this amount above what they formerly received. Whereas before, attendants only received the established monthly rate of pay for work when confined in the kitchen. Porters assigned to training student porters and private car porters will also receive the in-charge differential of $20.25 per month.

The basic work month remains the same, but the elapsed time prior to compensation of punitive time at time and one-half was reduced from 20 hours to 10 hours. This change represents a considerable increase in income to the porter, especially those engaged in troop movements. Attendants deadheading, who formerly received the standard car work rate, under the revision of the contract will receive the established attendants' rate of pay, which is higher.

Porters who double out of their district prior to the expiration of their layovers will not only receive an additional day, but if they return after their run goes out they will receive "held for service" compensation, and in addition, one day layover which they lost by virtue of the double out, or pay for a second extra day.

Bus boys who operate on cars with attendants are now represented by the Brotherhood as a result of the extension of the jurisdiction of the scope rule in the agreement to cover this class of employes.

Splendid Cooperation

MAY 3 - 1941

According to the representatives of the Brotherhood and Randolph, one of the most important features of the revision of the contract is that it was consummated through direct negotiations between the management of the Pullman company, which showed a splendid spirit of cooperation, and the Brotherhood, without the intervention of the National Mediation Board. This is of vital importance in the appraisment of the relationships between the management of the company and the organization, since it was the general belief that the first agreement which was negotiated by the Brotherhood with the compnay, was only made possible because of the intervention and pressure of the federal government through the National Mediation Board.

According to Randolph, it was the belief among some of the porters that it would not be possible for the organization to negotiate a revision of the contract with the company without the intervention of the National Mediation Board. However, it is apparent that this was not true, stated Randolph.

Whereas the first agreement of the porters, maids, and attendants had a term of duration of two years, the revision of the agreement has no such term of duration, but is subject to change in compliance with the provision of the Railway Labor act, which set up 30 days' notice as a condition for the reopening of conferences for negotiations.

MAY 3 - 1941

The Brotherhood insisted upon this arrangement so that the organization's hands will not be tied in the event that a wage movement is begun among railroad workers for pay increases. Under the present arrangement, if a wage movement should begin in the railway industry in the next six months or year, the Brotherhood can move in to secure these wage increases for the Pullman porters, maids, attendants, and bus boys upon 30 days' notice, without difficulty, concluded the porters' leader.

Members of the agreement committee that negotiated the contract for the Brotherhood were the international president; M. P. Webster of Chicago, first international vice president; Bennie Smith of Detroit, second international vice president; E. J. Bradley of St. Louis, third international vice president; C. L. Dellums of California, fourth international vice president; T. T. Patterson, claims adjustor for the Eastern zone of the Brotherhood, and vice president of the New York division; and Ashley L. Totten, international secretary-treasurer.

The negotiating committee for the Pullman company was represented by the executive vice president, Champ Carry; George Kelley, vice president public relations; B. H. Bowman, assistant to the executive vice president, and H. R. Larry, director, industrial relations.

The effective date of the agreement is June 1, with rates of pay being retroactive as of May 1.

It is the opinion of railroad union men who have read the Brotherhood's agreement, that it has some of the best rules contained by any agreement of railroad workers in the industry.

MAY 3 - 1941

Burlington Porters

Porters on the Burlington Lines received a wage increase of $7.50, raising their pay from $90 to $97.50 per month, as a result of the negotiation of the first agreement for Burlington chair car porters which was signed in the Burlington offices in Chicago, April 16.

Members of the agreement committee representing the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters were A. Philip Randolph, international president; M. P. Webster, first international vice president, and Brother Perry, who is an operating porter.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

WANT 50,000 TO STAGE BIG MASS PROTEST

~~MAY~~ 9 - 1941

Negroes to Demonstrate Against Jim Crow Defense Program

WASHINGTON.—A. Philip Randolph, who suggested some weeks ago that the Negro citizens of the United States march on the capitol at Washington in protest to the discrimination in national defense, has set July 1 as the date of that march. Fifty thousand Negroes are expected to participate.

Mr. Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, ~~is a member of the Negroes'~~ committee to March on Washington for Equal Participation in National Defense which this week sent out a "Call to Negro America." Other members of the committee who signed the call are Walter White of the N.A.A.C.P., Lester B. Granger of the Urban League, Frank Crosswaith, the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, Layle Lane, Richard Parrish, Dr. Rayford Logan and Henry K. Craft.

Between now and the date of the march, which is two months off, Negroes in all parts of the country will make plans to participate in the biggest dramatic effort Negroes have attempted in many years.

From north, east, south and west, Negroes are expected to pour into Washington by car, train and bus to form a mass demonstration against the jim-crowism which still exists in the nation's defense industries and in the armed forces of the country.

MAY 9 - 1941

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Thursday night A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, met with a small group at the Y. W. C. A. to outline plans for the proposed "Unemployed March on Washington" to be theld on July 1.

Mr. Randolph says that he expects some 50,000 Negroes to take part in the demonstration following smaller demonstrations in various other cities.

Another meeting is scheduled to be held with the ministers of the city seeking their support in the movement to attract attention to the situation.

Attending the meeting were Dr. Rayford Logan; Mary Church Terrell; Eugene Davidson, who was named chairman of the local group of sponsors; George Goodman of the Urban league; Mrs. Velma Williams of the board of education; W. Robert Ming of Howard law school; Ralph Bunche of Howard university; Thurman Dobson, lawyer; and Natalie Moorman.

A steering committee was formed to map out plans for the organization which includes Walter White of the N. A. A. C. P.; Henry K. Craft of the Harlem branch Y. M. C. A.; Lester Granger of the National Urban league and the Rev. W. Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian church in New York city.

It is the plan of the group to sell buttons at 10 cents each to defray expenses of the march and when the group arrives in Wasington, they are supposed to parade through the streets and assemble at Lincoln's monument where an open meeting of protest wil be staged.

MAY 9 - 1941

Local offices are to be opened at an early date under the direction of Mr. Davison. Every civic and fraternal organization in the city has been approached asking them to participate in the movement.

LABOR LEADER SAYS GROUP TO PARADE IN WASHINGTON FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE JOBS

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

Must Cry Out for Its Share of Jobs in Factories, Mills, Mines, and Offices, and In the Army, Navy. Air Corps

JAN 31 1941

By A. Philip Randolph

ST. LOUIS. — (Special) —Negroes are not getting anywhere with National Defense. The whole National Defense setup reeks and stinks with race prejudice, hatred and discrimination.

It is obvious to anyone who is not deaf, dumb and blind that the South with its attitude that the Negro is inferior, worthless, and just simply don't count, is in the saddle. It is a matter of common knowledge that the army, navy and air corps are dominated and virtually controlled by southerners.

But the southerners are not alone responsible for the fact that Negroes are being brutally pushed around. The North, East and West are also to blame, because they wink, connive at and acquiesce in this practice of discriminating against Negroes.

But regardless of who is responsible for the raw deal Negroes are getting, the big bald fact is they are getting it.

Nothing Is Done

Responsible committees of Negroes who seek to intercede in behalf of the Negro being accorded the simple right to work in industries and on jobs serving National Defense and to serve in the army, navy and air corps are being given polite assurances that Negroes will be given a fair deal. But it all ends there. Nothing is actually done to stop discriminations.

It seems to be apparent that even when well-meaning, responsible, top government officials agree upon a fair and favorable policy, there are loopholes, and subordinate officers in the army, navy, and air corps, full of race hatred, who seek its contravention, nullification and evasion.

This is why upstanding, independent, able and intelligent Negroes should be in responsible posts of every department of the government. They must be there to stimulate, suggest and initiate the formulation of certain policies favorable to the Negro, and they must be there to help police these posicies in the interest of their fair and consiestnt execution.

Now, fortunately, Negroes have good, able and sound people in Dr. Channing H. Tobias in the draft board, Judge William H. Hastie in the war department, Dr. Robert Weaver in the National Defense commission, Frances Williams in the consumer's section, and a few others.

But they are helpless without the collective, mass support of the Negro people. Aggressive, articulate, determined, mass support will strengthen their hands.

Need Support

It is not enough for Negroes to want jobs in the factories, mills, mines and offices, they must diplomatically and undiplomatically, ceremoniously and unceremoniously, cry out in no uncertain terms their demand for work and their rightful places in every department of the army, navy and air sorps, based, of course, upon recognized qualifications.

Evidently, the regular, normal and respectable method of conferences and petitions, while proper and ought to be continued as conditions may warrant, certainly don t work. They don't do the job. However they are a necessary preliminary, advance-guard work, for only a small committee can intelligently formulate a program. But the few people of ability who may develop a program may not possess the power to enforce it or secure its adoption.

Now power and pressure do not reside in the few, the intellegentsia, they lie in and flow from the masses. Power does not even rest with the masses as such. Power is the active principal of only the organized masses, the masses united for a definite purpose.

Hence Negro America must bring its power and pressure to bear upon the agencies and representatives of the federal government to exact their rights in National Defense employment and the armed forces of the country. No real, actual, bonafide, definite and positive pressure of the Negro masses has even been brought to bear upon the executive and legislative branches of the city, state and national governments.

Suggests March On Capitol

Now, as to a practical program . . . .

I suggest that 10,000 Negroes march on Washiington, D. C., the capitol of the nation, with the slogan: WE LOYAL NEGRO AMERICAN CITIZENS DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK AND FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Negroes could join this march from various sections of the country from all trades, professions and callings, such as laborers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, preachers, mechanics, soldiers, women, and youth groups.

Our demand would be simple, single and central; namely: jobs in National Defense and placement as soldiers and officers of all ranks we are qualified for, in the armed forces.

No propaganda could be whipped up and spread to the effect that Negroes seek to hamper defense. No charge could be made that Negroes are attempting to mar national unity. They want to do none of these things. On the contrary, we seek the right to play our part in advancing the cause of national defense and national unity. But certainly, there can be no true national unity where one tenth of the population are denied their basic rights as American citizens.

Committees of the marchers could be planned to meet and confer with various government officials about the needs, demands and rights of the Negro.

The Call

Shock Officials

Such a pilgrimage of 10,000 Negroes would wake up and shock Official Washington as it has never been shocked before. Why? The answer is clear. Nobody expects 10,000 Negroes to get together and march anywhere for anything at any time. Negroes are supposed not to have sufficient iron in their blood for this type of struggle. In common parlance, they are supposed to be just scared and unorganizable. Is this true? I contend it is not.

What an impressive sight 10,000 Negroes would make marching down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington, D. C., with banners preaching their cause for justice, freedom and equality.

Kansas City, Mo.

One thing is certain and that is if Negroes are going to get anything out of this National Defense which will cost the nation 30 or 40 billions of dollars that we Negroes must help pay in taxes as property owners and workers and consumers, WE MUST FIGHT FOR IT AND FIGHT FOR IT WITH GLOVES OFF.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

AGREEMENT FOR TRAIN PORTERS

JAN 4 - 1941

NEW YORK, Jan. 2--It was announced at the headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters by A. Philip Randolph, international president, that the Brotherhood, as a result of winning an election conducted by the National Mediation Board for Trojan Porters on the Missouri Pacific railroad, moves to negotiate the revision of the existing agreement for Train Porters of the aforementioned carrier.

Conferences for the negotiation will begin January 3, in the Missouri Pacific building, St. Louis, Mo., with M. P. Webster, first international vice-president, leading the agreement committee composed of E. J. Bradley, third international vice-president; T. D. McNeal, international field organizer and St. Clair Crutcher, president and general chairman of the Train and Brakemen Porters Local of the Brotherhood of Little Rock, Ark.

The Brotherhood will seek to secure a more favorable mileage basis, wage rates, and rules governing working conditions for the men, states Mr. Randolph.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

PORTERS SEEK MISSOURI PACT

35

Negotiations Slated to Open January 3rd In St. Louis, Mo.

JAN 4 1941

It was announced this week at the headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, 217 West 125th St., by A. Philip Randolph, International President, that the Brotherhood, as a result of winning an election conducted by the National Mediation Board for train porters on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, is preparing to negotiate the revision of the existing agreement for train porters of the aforementioned carrier.

Conferences for the negotiation wil lbegin January 3, in the Missouri Pacific Building, St. Louis, Missouri, with M. P. Webster 1st International Vice-President, leading the Agreement Committee composed of E. J. Bradley, 3rd International Vice-President; T. D. McNeal, International Field Organizer, and St. Clair Crutcher, President and General Chairman of the Train and Brakemen Porters Local of the Brotherhood of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Brotherhood will seek to secure a more favorable mileage basis, wage rates, and rules governing working conditions for the men, stated Mr. Randolph.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

March Of 10.000 Negroes On D. C., Urged By A. Philin Randolph To Protest National Defense Setup

JAN 25 1941

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Negroes are not getting anywhere with National Defense. The whole National Defense setup reeks and stinks with race prejudice, hatred and discrimination.

It is obvious to anyone who is not deaf, dumb and blind that the South, with its attitude that the Negro is inferior, worthless and just simply don't count, is in the saddle. It is a matter of common knowledge that the army, Navy, and Air Corps are dominated and virtually controlled by Southerners.

But the Southerners are not alone responsible for the fact that Negroes are being brutally pushed around. The north, east and west are also to blame, because they wink, connive at and acquiesce in this practice of discriminating against Negroes.

But regardless of who is responsible for the raw deal Negroes are getting, the big bald fact is they are getting it.

Responsibile committees of Negroes who seek to intercede in behalf of the Negro being accorded the simple right to work in industries and on jobs serving National Defense and to serve in the Army, Navy and Air Corps are being given polite assurances that Negroes will be given a fair deal. But it all ends there. Nothing is actually done to stop discrimination.

It seems to be apparent that even when well-meaning, responsible, top government officials agree upon a fair and favorable policy, there are loopholes, and subordinate officers in the Army, Navy, Air Corps, full of race hatred, who seek its contravention, nullification, and evasion.

This is why upstanding, independent, able and intelligent Negroes should be in responsible posts of every department of the government. They must be there to stimulate, suggest and initiate the formulation of certain policies favorable to the Negro, and they must be there to help police these policies in the interest of their fair and consistent execution.

Negroes In The Setup

Now, fortunately, Negroes have good, able, and sound people in Dr. Channing H. Tobias in the Draft Board, Judge William H. Hastie in the War Department, Dr. Robert Weaver in the National Defense Commission, Frances Williams in the Consumers' Section, and a few others.

But they are helpless without the collective, mass support of the Negro people. Aggressive, articulate, determined, mass support will strengthen their hands.

It is not enough for Negroes to want jobs in the factories, mills, mines and offices, they must diplomatically, ceremoniously and unceremoniously, cry out in no uncertain terms their demand for work and their rightful places in every department of the Army, Navy, and Air Corps, based, of course, upon recognized qualifications.

Evidently, the regular, normal and respectable method of conferences and petitions, while proper and ought to be continued as conditions may warrant, certainly don't work. They don't do the job. However, they are a necessary preliminary, advance-guard work, for only a small committee can intelligently fomulate a program. But the few people of ability who may develop a program may not possess the power to enforce it or secure its adoption.

Just a casual analysis and survey of the dynamics and mechanics of modern movements, legislation, administration and execution, show that only power can effect the enforcement and adoption of a given policy, however meritorious it may be. The virtue and righteous of a cause are not alone the condition and cause of its progress and acceptance. Power and pressure are at the foundation of the march of social justice and reform.

Now power and pressure do not reside in the few, the intelligentsia , they lie in and flow from from the masses. Power does not even rest with the masses as such. Power is the active principle of only the organized masses, the masses united for a definite purpose.

Hence Negro America must bring its power and pressure to bear upon the agencies and representatives of the Federal Government to exact their rights in National Defense employment and the armed forces of the country. No real, actual, bona fide, definite, and positive pressure of the Negro masses has ever been brought to bear upon the executive and legislative branches of the city, state and national governments.

Suggests March on D. C.

Now, as to a practical program— I suggest that ten thousand Negroes march on Washington, D.C., the capital of the Nation, with the slogan: WE LOYAL NEGRO AMERICAN CITIZENS DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK AND FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Negroes could join this march from various sections of the country from all trades, professions and callings, such as laborers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, preachers, mechanics, soldiers, women and youth groups.

Our demand would be simple, single and central; namely, jobs in National Defense and placement as soldiers and officers of all ranks we are qualified for, in the armed forces.

No propaganda could be whipped up and spread to the effect that Negroes seek to hamper defense. No charge could be made that Negroes are attempting to mar national unity. They want to do none of these things. On the contrary we seek the right to play our part in advancing the cause of national defense and national unity. But certainly, there can be no true national unity where one-tenth of the population are denied their basic rights as American citizens.

Committees of the marchers could be planned to meet and confer with various government officials about the needs, demands and rights of the Negro.

Such a pilgrimage of 10,000 Negroes would wake up and shock official Washington as it has never been shocked before. Why? The answer is clear. Nobody expects ten thousand Negroes to get together and march anywhere for anything at any time. Negroes are supposed not to have sufficient iron in their blood for this type of struggle. In common parlance, they are supposed to be just scared and unorganizable. Is this true? I contend it is not.

What an impressive sight ten thousand Negroes would make marching down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington, D. C., with banners preaching their cause for justice, freedom and equality.

Fight Is Necessary

One thing is certain and that is if Negroes are going to get anything out of this National Defense which will cost the nation 30 or 40 billions of dollars that we Negroes must help pay in taxes as property owners and workers and consumers, WE MUST FIGHT FOR IT AND FIGHT FOR IT WITH GLOVES OFF.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Labor Struggled Without Many Gains During 1940

JAN 25 1941

The year 1940 in the field of labor, has been one of struggle without any appreciable gains. A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees Union, and Frank R. Crosswaith, chairman of the Harlem Labor Committee, were among the most active leaders of labor whose names were constantly in print during the year.

Notable efforts of Negro labor to gain fuller recognition and fairplay were made by A. Philip Randolph at the New Orleans convention of the American Federation of Labor in November. Mr. Randolph made a brilliant and well-reasoned address before the convention, demanding the outlawing of union locals brotherhoods affiliated with the A. F. of L. in whose constitutions there are clauses or rituals banning the Negro from membership. Although the address was received with respect, no favorable action was taken.

The next effort was the fight led by Willard S. Townsend to solve the wage problems facing the Red Caps. Launching its fight at its January convention in New York to recover $3,000,000 in back wages from the railroads throughout the nation as a result of the provisions of the Wages and Hours Law, and the ruling of the railroads that tips must be considered as wages, the Red Caps have continued the struggle with relentless vigor.

In the middle of the year, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt entered the fight on behalf of the Red Caps and demanded that a condition whereby tips are considered wages for American workers should not be tolerated.

The fifteenth anniversary convention of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in New York City, which was addressed by Mrs. Roosevelt, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, director, Negro Division, N.Y.A.; Walter White, secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Aubrey Williams, director, N.Y.A., and others was one of the major events in the field of Negro labor in 1940.

The struggle of the sharecroppers made no important gains during the year.

35i-1941

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Union Plans Conference To Save Jobs Of Negro Firemen In Southland

JAN 2 1941

NEW YORK—Despite the fact that many have put in from 10 to 20 years of service, colored firemen on railroads in the Southwest are losing their right of seniority, are being discharged and displaced by whites.

These and similar other facts are daily being revealed by colored firemen, according to officials of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an A F. of L. affiliate.

"The Brotherhood, stated A. Philip Randolph, president, "plans to call a national conference of colored firemen on all the railroads throughout the country that employ them for the purpose of formulating a long range program of organization and legislation in the interest of the relief of this class of colored railroad workers from their present state of job security."

The conference will be held at the headquarters of the Brotherhood, in Washington, during the month of March.

Regulations by the Interstate Commerce Commission require that in the next few years coal burning engines be equipped with stokers or replaced by Diesel power. As a result of this change, and through the organized strength of the white firemen, definite confidential understanding is being developed that provides for the elimination of the colored firemen by various subtle and devious means. One of these is that railway carriers shall not fill vacancies caused by the death of colored firemen, and the refusal to give colored firemen training in the operation of the diesel engine.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Let The Negro Masses Speak

MAR 15 1941

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

International President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

NEGROES have a stake in national defense. It is a big stake, a vital and important stake.

The stake involves jobs. It involves equal employment opportunities. It involves equal opportunity for integration in the armed forces of the nation.

MR. RANDOLPH

And what do we get? Polite promises; sometimes, insults. How can this stake be protected?

Our answer is: Let the Negro masses speak!

Yes, thirteen or fifteen million colored Americans have a stake of far-reaching economic consequences in the Government's expenditure of twenty, or more, billions for national defense. We have a stake in the vast, nation-wide, government program of vocational training of workers to perform skilled work on contracts to produce munitions and build all types of ships for war.

MAR 15 1941

LET THE MASSES SPEAK!

How can Negroes win their right to equal opportunities to share in this plan of training and entertaining for technical services? Our answer is: Let the Negro masses speak!

As a racial group we must not fail to grasp and understand the fact that national defense is not an ordinary, passing event. We must realize that this world-war crisis is not a temporary, simple, occasional incident.

This world-war crisis and America's scheme of national defense are destined profoundly to affect the whole economy of our country. Sharp and permanent rearrangements and re-adjustments in the entire industrial and work setups of business, industry and labor are in the process of development. If the Negro is shut out of these extensive and intensive changes in industry, labor and business, the race will be set back over fifty years.

Indeed, it is seriously doubtful that if the race waits until these economic, trade union and business transformations and innovations, now uder way, under the sanction and guidance of the government, are crystalized and set, he may never retrieve lost ground or salvage rights sacrificed.

How can the Negrgo halt this crystallization of economic and political injustice? Our answer is: Let the masses speak! Negroes strong, marching down

How shall they speak? Let the masses speak with ten thousand Pennsylvania Avenue in the capitol of the nation, singing "John Brown's Body Lies a'Mouldering in the Grave," and "Before I'll be a Slave, I'll be Buried in My Grave and Go Home to My Father and Be Saved."

MAR 15 1941

In serried ranks, let the Negro masses, as workers, doctors, preachers, lawyers, business men, nurses, teachers, women and children, march forward with heads erect, holding banners aloft, enscribed with slogans, preaching the gospel of justice, freedom and democracy, declaring their decisive demands for jobs in national defense, equal employment and vocational training opportunities, together with equal privileges for integration in all departments of the armed forces.

We cannot stop discrimination in national defense with conferences of leaders and the intelligentsia alone. While conferences have merit, they won't get desired results by themselves.

FIRST WORLD WAR

During the first world's war, immigration from Europe was cut off and labor was at a premium. Hundreds of thousands of Negroes were brought up from the South to labor in the factories, mines and mills. They were needed badly. Jobs were seeking them.

Today, it is different. During this World War, there are millions of workers in America unemployed. White workers are in sharp competition with Negro workers for jobs. Instead of jobs seeking workers, workers are seeking jobs. Therefore, Whatever we get in jobs and vocational training opportunities, we must fight for. Nothing will be given to us.

Hence, let the Negro masses speak!

Let the Negro masses march!

Let the Negro masses fight!

ON TO WASHINGTON!

On to Washington, ten thousand black Americans!

Let them swarm from every hamlet, village and town; from the highways and byways, out of the churches, lodges, homes, schools, mills, mines, factories and fields. Let them come in automobiles, busses trains, trucks and on foot. Let them come though the wind s blow and the rains beat against them, when the date is set.

MAR 15 1941

We call not upon our white friends to march with us. There are some things Negroes must do alone. This is our fight and we must see it through.

If it costs money to finance a march on Washington, let us pay for it. If any sacrifices are to be made for Negro rights in national defense, let us make them.

If Negroes fail this chance for work, for freedom and training, it may never come again. Let the Negro masses speak!

Only the masses possess power. Only the voice of the masses will be heard and heeded — Negro America has never yet spoken as a mass, an organized mass.

Top powers of industry, organized white labor and government, have not yet felt the pressure of the Negro masses. They have seen Negro leaders, who are intelligent and well-meaning, pleading for Negro rights.

They have never seen the Negro masses in action.

Thus ,let the Negro masses speak!

New York Age
New York, N. Y

Predicts Drastic Change In Economic And Social Life

PREDICTS DRASTIC CHA —3413

ATLANTA, Ga.—In one of the most dynamic addresses ever delivered from the rostrum of Sale Hall Chapel, A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, predicted to come in this generation "some of the most profound transformations in our economic and social life that have ever been witnessed in the modern world. Changes are taking place that are so vast, the students were told, that unless we are able to adapt ourselves to them, crystallization will set in that will prevent us from ever taking our place in the new economy."

"No longer can the Negro depend on outside agencies," the speaker declared," as philanthropic foundations are drying up and the good people who were concerned about humanity are not existing as they once did." A great challenge to the young Negro of today as described by Mr. Randolph is in the organization of the power of the masses.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Let The Negro Masses Speak

APR 12 1941

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Negroes have a stake in National Defense. It is a big stake. It is a vital and important stake.

But are we getting our stake?

No. Nobody cares anything about us. We are being pushed around.

The stake involves jobs. It involves equal employment opportunities. It involves equal opportunity for integration in the armed forces of the nation.

And what do we get?

Polite promises; sometimes, insults.

How can this stake be protected?

Our answer is:

Let the Negro masses speak!

Yes, thirteen or fifteen million Negroes have a stake of far-reaching economic consequences in the Government's expenditure of twenty, or more, billions for National Defense.

Negroes have a stake in the vast, nation-wide, Government program of vocation training of workers to perform skilled work on contracts to produce munitions and build all types of ships for war.

How can Negroes win their right to equal opportunities to share in this plan of training and retraining for technical services?

Our answer is:

Let the Negro masses speak!

Negroes must not fail to grasp and understand the fact that National Defense is not an ordinary, passing event. They must realize that this world-war crisis is not a temporary, simple, occasional incident.

This world-war crisis and America's scheme of National Defense are destined profoundly to affect the whole economy of our country. Sharp and permanent re-arrangements and re-adjustments in the entire industrial and work setups of business, industry and labor are in the process of development.

If the Negro is shut out of these extensive and intensive changes in industry, labor and business, the race will be set back over fifty years.

Indeed, it is seriously doubtful that if the Negro waits until these economic, trade union and business transformations and innovations, now under way, under the sanction and guidance of the Government, are crystallized and set, he may never retrieve lost ground or salvage rights sacrificed.

How can the Negro halt this crystallization of economic and political injustice?

Our answer is:

Let the Negro masses speak!

Indeed, it is seriously doubtful that if the Negro waits until these economic, trade union and business transformations and innovations, now under way, under the sanction and guidance of the Government, are crystallized and set, he may never retrieve lost ground or salvage rights sacrificed.

How can the Negro halt this crystallization of economic and political injustice?

Our answer is:

Let the Negro masses speak!

When they speak, they will speak with the tongues of angels. When they thunder their resentment and revolt against the blighting bottlenecks of race prejudice and hatreds, **their voice will be the Voice of God.**

How shall they speak?

Let the Negro masses speak with ten thousand Negroes strong, marching down Pennsylvania Avenue in the Capitol of the Nation, singing "John Brown's Body Lies a'Mouldering in the Grave" and "Before I'll Be a Slave, I'll Be Buried in My Grave and Go Home to My Father and Be Saved."

In serried ranks, let the Negro masses, as workers, doctors, preachers, lawyers, business men, nurses, teachers, women and children, march forward with heads erect, holding banners aloft, enscribed with slogans, preaching the gospel of justice, freedom and democracy, declaring their decisive demands for jobs in National Defense, equal employment and vocation training opportunities, together with equal privileges for integration in all departments of the armed forces.

Let us tear the mask of hypocrisy from America's Democracy!

An able expose of discrimination against Negroes on National Defense jobs was made by Walter White, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the Saturday Evening Post, of recent date, and now Negroes must mobilize their might to stop it.

Negroes cannot stop discrimination in National Defense with conferences of leaders and the intelligentsia alone. While conferences have merit, they won't get desired results by themselves.

During the first world's war, immigration from Europe was cut off and labor was at a premium. Hundreds of thousands of Negroes were brought up from the South to labor in factories, mines and mills. They were needed badly. Jobs were seeking them.

Today, it is different. During this World War, there are millions of workers in America unemployed. White workers are in sharp competition now with Negro workers for jobs. Instead of jobs seeking workers, workers are seeking jobs.

Therefore, whatever Negroes get in jobs and vocational training opportunities, they must fight for. Nothing will be given them.

Hence, let the Negro masses speak!

Let the Negro masses march!

Let the Negro masses fight!

When women marched in demonstration in England and America, they won the ballot.

When the American Legions marched on Washington, they secured the bonus.

Let no black man be afraid. We are simply fighting for our constitutional rights as American citizens.

Let us not be beaten, bewildered and bitter. Away with cynicism and defeatism.

We are not saboteurs.

We are no Quislings.

We hold no allegience to an alien state. This is our own, our native land. Let us fight to make it truly free, democratic and just.

We are not Trojan Horses.

We are not Fifth Columnists.

We are not traitors.

We are Americans.

We are patriots.

We are fighting for the right to work!

We are fighting for the right to live!

We believe in National Unity.

We believe in National Defense.

We will fight for Uncle Sam!

We are opposed to totalitarian tyranny, Fascist, Nazi and Communist.

We will fight for democracy!

Yes, we will fight!

Indeed, we would rather die on our feet fighting for Negroes' rights than to live on our knees as half-men; as semi-citizens, begging for a pittance.

Therefore, let the Negro masses speak!

Let the Negro masses march!

On to Washington, ten thousand black Americans!

Let them swarm from every hamlet, village and town; from the highways and byways, out of the churches, lodges, homes, schools, mills, mines, factories and fields. Let them come in automobiles, buses, trains, trucks and on foot. Let them come though the winds blow and the rains beat against them, when the date is set.

We call not upon our white friends to march with us. There are some things Negroes must do alone. This is our fight and we must see it through.

If it costs money to finance a march on Washington, let Negroes pay for it. If any sacrifices are to be made for Negro rights in National Defense, let Negroes make them.

If Negroes fail this chance for work, for freedom and training, it may never come again.

Let the Negro masses speak!

Only the masses possess power. Only the voice of the masses will be heard and heeded—Negro America has never yet spoken as a mass, an organized mass.

Top powers of industry, organized white labor and government, have not yet felt the pressure of the Negro masses. They have seen Negro leaders, leaders who are intelligent and well-meaning, pleading for Negro rights.

They have never seen the Negro masses in action.

Thus, let the Negro masses speak!

A. Phillip Randolph, Brotherhood Head, In Masterful Address

By J. B. Sims

SEP 19 1941

In an address that stirred an appreciable audience, A. Phillip Randolph made a memorable adress at the Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church this past Monday night. Mr. Randolph, head of the National Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Locomotive workers in a very forceful manner expounded on the subject, "The Negro Problem", and "The Negro's Problem".

He classed the "Negro Problem" as an objective one, mentioning first segregation, under which would come the problem of equalization of housing facilities, equal political status and a chance for economical advancement. He went on further to state that the "Jim Crow" law long ago has been the boon of the country and until that is removed we [illegible] still to always be placed in embarrassing situations. As regards politics, he brought out that the Negro has a chance in some instances to vote, but very few instances, where he has a chance to be voted for.

"The Weekly Review"
Birmingham, Ala.

In speaking of the Negro's problem, he gave some suggestions as to how we can offset the Negro problem. He mentioned that first, we must have self-reliance, believing that there is no limited democracy. Then, he went on to say, "there must be equality of action or rather concentrated action among the Negroes themselves." In this connection he made the statement, "that any Race of people will only get what it can take, that nothing is ever handed out on a silver platter." He said further that there is power in concerted action and that power can be used to an advantage.

In what was supposedly an unprecedented action, the Brotherhood had planned the now famous "March On Washington", which was postponed only after Mr. Randolph had had a lengthy conference with high government officials, including the President himself. Mr. Randolph told the group that he out-

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

It Must Not Fail!

Several months ago, A. Philip Randolph, brilliant labor leader and International president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, stirred over the vicious discriminatory practices against Negroes in national defense jobs, organized a march-to-Washington (M. T. W. C.) committee to mass 100,000 persons for a protest march to the nation's capital.

The Amsterdam Star-News was in the fight at its inception and remained the spearhead of the publicity drive until President Roosevelt stepped in and issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination in plants working on defense contracts, and created the Fair Employment Practice Committee to see that the order was carried out.

In analyzing the order we pointed out that plants working on defense contracts obtained before the order was issued would not be bound, and that there was no punitive provision in the order to penalize those plants that received contracts after the order had been issued, yet insisted on discriminating against persons on account of race, color, creed and national origin.

NOV 22 1941

This we regarded as a definite weakness, but argued that if the March-to-Washington Committee functioned according to plans, sufficient public sentiment could be aroused to force the recalcitrant plants to fall in line. To this end, the March-to-Washington Committee has somewhat fallen down.

Last week when the F. E. P. C. held its first hearings in Los Angeles, the "Randolph" committee was quite inconspicuous. We had hoped that whenever the F. E. P. C. sat down for a hearing, the M. T. W. C. would be prepared to place before it information and evidence of discrimination in such concrete form that its work would be simple and direct; that the M. T. W. C. would, in itself, be a sort of investigating body, constantly gathering data and sifting material for the F. E. P. C. to study.

If the March-to-Washington Committee means to follow through with its original program to the end that the purpose for which it was created is to be realized, it must set about immediately organizing units in all communities where defense plants are operating. It must obtain information regarding employment in these plants and ascertain to what extent Negroes are being integrated into the personnel of these plants. If there is discrimination, the facts must be made available to the F. E. P. C.

NOV 22 1941

Once this is done the spotlight of publicity can be thrown on those responsible for correcting the practice. If the F. E. P. C. has the facts and fails to act, President Roosevelt ought to be told his committee is not following instructions; if the F. E. P. C. acts and the plants refuse to change their policy, the heat should be turned on the plants, and finally, if the March-to-Washington Committee fails to do its job, it should not be spared the criticism it thereby forces upon its shoulder, for failure to fulfill a mission.

If the committee has been unable to function because of a lack of finance it cannot escape condemnation, since there has been no general or national appeal—at least through the press—for assistance in this connection. Having brought about the creation of the F. E. P. C., the March-to-Washington Committee cannot permit it to be said that its inaction was responsible for the F. E. P. C.'s failure.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

First Lady And Mayor LaGuardia Join Committee Working To Save Jobs Of Negro Railroad Firemen

OCT 4 1941

It was anounced at the national headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car ~~Porters' Provisional Committee for the~~ Organization of Colored Locomotive Firemen that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mayor F. H. LaGuardia have joined in heading a National Citizens' Committee to save the jobs of colored locomotive firemen on railroads in the Southeast and Southwest.

Mrs. osevelt will act as honorary chairman and Mayor LaGuardia as chairmanof the committee. The purpose of this committee is to mobolize public sentiment in the interest of stopping the displacement of colored locomotive firemen, soem of whom are 3 and 40 years in service of railroads in the South, fro being displaced by white firemen, some of whom have not served on railroads as long as one year.

Contract Causes Trouble

The plight of the colored railroad firemen, according to A. Philip Randolph, chairman of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters' Provisional Committee to organize Colored Locomotive Firemen, has become tragic as a result of a contract—known as a 'non-promotable contract'—which was entered into by certain carriers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, which assumed to act under and by virtue of the Railway Labor Act as sole bargaining agent for all employes o fthat class employed by the carriers represented, and which results in ousting colored firemen long employed on these railroads, and who have acquired certain vested property rights and contract rights of seniority, pension and promotion. This contract definitely closes the dor of opportunity for further employment to Negro railroad firemen.

Because of this contract, the Negrom firemen cannot now bid on a new run or a run on which a colored firema died or from which he has been retired because of age, or discharged.

When Diesel engines are installed, which is now a general practice on most railroads made necessary by regualtion of the Interstate Commerce Commission, colored locomotive firemen are denied the oportunity to operate these types of engines regardless of seniority, qualification or merit, observed, Mr. Randolph.

The stuaton wth respect to colored firemen is made doubly difficult also by virtue of the fact that the white firemens' union denies colored firemen membership by constitutional provision, but asserts the right to negotiate contracts aecting all firemen and especially to the end of the eventual elimination of the Negro firemen from the railroads of America.

OCT 4 1941

351-1941

CALIFORNIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Longshoremen Win After 48 Hour Strike

JAN 13 1941

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Within 8 hours after the California Coton Oil Products corporation plant was shut down completely, a smashing victory had been won by the colored longshoremen, who work there. They are members of the C. I. O. International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union. All the members of this local are colored, although this is declared to not be the result of any jim crow restrictions placed by the main body

The union called into conference by company officials soon after a picket line of strikers and sympathizers began marching, won its essential demands:

A 10 per cent wage increase; ful seniority rights; an eight hour day; a five day week, and a 12 month contract. Both state and local officials of the union were present at the conference and a rank-and-file committee headed by the local's president, George Lee. Representatives of the National Negro congress, who aided in the protests announced following its settlement: "The victory for Local 1-160 is very significant. It is the first time in the history of the Pacific Coast that these workers have had to use the method of strike to secure better wages and some measure of job security. All of us may feel proud of the men who organized themselves into a force under the banners of a militant and progressive trade union."

JAN 13 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes Win Strike in Calif. Oil Compress

JAN 8 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7.—A complete 48-hour shutdown of the California Cotton Oil Corporation's plant in Vernon have today resulted in a smashing victory for the CIO Warehousemen's Union, Local 1-60, all members of which are Negroes.

The union won its essential demands—a 10 per cent wage increase, seniority rights and an 8-hour day, after negotiations were carried on by CIO State President Philip M. Connelly, International Longshore and Warehousemen's Union international representative Charles Duarte and a rank and file committee, headed by George Lee, president of the local.

The strike was called Thursday afternoon when contract negotiations with the company bogged down on employer demands for a 10-hour day.

All members of the ILWU Local 1-60 are Negroes. However, it is not a jimcrow local, union officials explained, as the policy of the company is responsible for the sole hiring of Negroes for the backbreaking and dirty jobs in the cotton oil plant

The strike was almost solid from the very beginning, with 70 men walking out and tieing up the plant completely. A day and night picket line on each of California Cotton Oil's two gates was maintained by the union, with pickets covering the entire plant.

Chief complaints of workers were that they were forced to work, in some instances, as much as from 10 to 16 hours a day.

351-1941

Knoxville, Tenn. News Sentinel
April 20, 1941

Reason for Naming Labor Leader a 'Red' Is Given

William Mitch, CIO Chieftain, Pledged Support to Negro Youth Congress, So He Was Put on List.

News-Sentinel Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 19—Te reason that William Mitch, Alabama United Mine Workers and CIO leader, was included by Rep. Martin Dies in a list of CIO officials who are "Communists or fellow travelers who follow the party line" was disclosed at a hearing before the House Military Affairs Committee this week.

The witness was J. B. Matthews, one of the Dies Committee's principal employes, who was brought before the committee in connection with the committee's investigation of strikes in defense industries.

Asks Question

Rep. John Sparkman of Alabama asked Mr. Matthews if he had read in the Congressional Record the editorials from the Birmingham Age-Herald, along with the statements by Senators Lister Hill and John H. Bankhead denying that Mr. Mitch is a Communist or a fellow traveler.

Mr. Matthews said he had.

"Do you care to comment?" Mr. Sparkman asked.

Mr. Matthews replied that lists of Communists and fellow travelers given out by the committee sometimes include persons who are members of Communist "front" organizations.

One such organization, he said, is the Southern Negro Youth Congress, and Mr. Mitch, he added, in the past has pledged the support of the CIO in Alabama to that organization.

Representative Sparkman, making it clear that he spoke as a friend of the Dies Committee and as one who has supported it consistently, said that it endangered the work of the committee for someone on the committee to label someone as a Communist or a fellow traveler and then have it refuted "by papers like the Birmingham Post and the Age-Herald and by such men as Senators Hill and Bankhead."

Not the First Time

Mr. Matthews remarked that "this was not the first time that those papers had criticized the Dies Committee."

"Not the work of your committee but some of its publicity," said Representative Sparkman.

When another committee member, Rep. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, pointed out that Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina and now a member of the National Defense Mediation Board, was formerly president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, also charged with being a Communist Front organization, Rep. Carl Durham of North Carolina said:

"Dr. Graham is a fellow-townsman of mine and I know him well. knew was as good an American I only wish that every person Ias is Dr. Graham."

CIO

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro-White Unity at Waukegan Tannery Keynotes CIO Strike

MAY 7 - 1941

600 Out for 3rd Week Against Griess-Pfleger Open-Shop Plant; Demand Pay Rise, Union Pact; Firm Is Key to Organizing Drive

MAY 7 - 1941

By Carl Harris
(Special to the Daily Worker)

WAUKEGAN, Ill., May 6.—Six hundred Negro and white workers are holding down the fort in this industrial town at the Griess-Pfleger tannery, where a strike is in its third week.

This is regarded by the CIO International Fur and and Leather Workers Union as an important strike since the plant is a key plant in the industry where wage scales were at rock bottom before the walkout on April 16. The fact also that fully half of the workers are Negroes and that this has been held as a justification for the low wages is another reason that the union is throwing everything into a victory at the Waukegan tannery.

MAY 7 - 1941

"If it wasn't against the law, I guess they'd try to work us for even less," Nathaniel Johnson, Negro picket captain declared, "but there isn't a man who will go back to work until this strike is won."

LOW WAGES

The large number of men in the shop get 40 cents an hour and women get as low as 35. The scales for skilled workers are 10 cents below many of the unorganized tanneries, according to union representative Joe Van Nordstrand.

"We're asking for a 25 per cent wage increase, a week's vacation with pay and a closed shop," Van Nordstrand stated, "and we refuse to be a party to any settlement which would undercut the wage standards already set by other unions in this vicinity."

All was quiet here today at the lakeside plant while pickets patrolled the three gates in one of the tightest and best organized strikes that have ever been held here.

Greiss-Pfleger is located half way between Chicago, where there are 4,000 unorganized tannery workers, and Milwaukee, where 6,000 tannery workers are still unorganized. And the outcome of this battle of 600 men will just about decide when and how this industry will be organized.

MAY 7 - 1941

CIO CAMPAIGN

It's only a little over a year that the CIO really began unionizing tannery. Before that the efforts of the AFL were met with bloody resistance and one historic chapter in this fight records that workers were thrown into the Chicago River by the sluggers who were retained to uphold the open shop.

But today the hours of the remaining company unions in the industry are numbered. The workers have had their fill of intolerably low wages and dangerous working conditions among the worst in any industry, what with "chrome rash," poisonous chemical fumes and many varieties of arthritis.

This combination explains the unwavering militancy of the Greiss-Pfleger strikers. The strike vote was 401 to 3. Previously, on Feb. 28, the workers had welcomed the CIO into the shop with a smashing 513-43 vote for the Fur and Leather Workers in a labor board election.

But it seems that J. Harry Jordan, plant superfintendent still retained illusions about maintaining open shop conditions. Another thing that he banked on was splitting his employes along the color line with the shop composed of about equal numbers of Negro and white.

NEGRO-WHITE UNITY

However, the result was exactly opposite. The workers walked out solid and have remained that way to the last man. Not only that, the strike has lifted the fight against discrimination to a high level not only in the tannery but in the dozens of other large plants in Waukegan.

MAY 7 - 1941

However, this issue has been raised to such a pitch that a 16-year jim-crow policy was broken through recently at the American Steel and Wire mill when a Negro was hired for the first time.

"Victory in the tannery strike will mean a great deal for the 3,500 Negro people of Waukegan," declared John W. Roberts, Jr., a young Negro striker, who is presdient of the Lake County Youth Forum. "The CIO unions of Waukegan are breaking through the Chinese wall of discrimination which has surrounded Waukegan ever since I can remember."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Delaware CIO Urges Negro Job Struggle

Negro Unionist Hails Role for Unity in Radio Broadcast

MAY 24 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WILMINGTON, Del., May 23.—Being a people's movement for security, jobs, civil rights and peace, the CIO does not ask questions about the race or color of its members or of the people it aids, but fights to bring the benefits of the organization to all working people, men and women, Negro and white, Hubert Reid, Negro member of the Eastern Malleable Iron Union, Local 754, CIO, and chairman of the Delaware Council of the National Negro Congress, declared in a radio address here tonight.

Mr. Reid was the second of two speakers in the fourth of a series of six weekly broadcasts being sponsored by the New Castle County Industrial Union Council, CIO. The first speaker was Theodore Conley, President of Local 3, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO. The broadcasts are made over Station WILM.

MAY 24 1941

Mr. Reid began with a review of the Negro's part in American history, citing Negro achievements from Crispus Attucks to Paul Robeson. He then proceeded to point out obstacles that bar the Negro people's enjoyment of democratic rights in the United States. Segregation, he said, "leads to low living standards and poverty," and he proved by figures published by the United States Department of Labor that in nearby Chester rent prices for whites have increased by one-third but that for Negroes rents are half again as high as they originally were.

"What are we trying to do about it? Well, many of us have come to believe that we can do nothing—**alone.** We feel that the only way to improve our conditions is to work hand in hand with our white neighbors and brothers who are faced with much the same problems, we have."

MAY 24 1941

Many Negroes have found, Reed said, that the CIO, with its unions, was the organization which offered the strongest support for equality and jobs for all the people. He declared that in the CIO the Negro and the white workers join hands to strive for the things they need to make life better.

Calling attention to the fact that 50,000 Negro miners recently gained substantial wage increases, along with their white brothers, under the leadership of the CIO United Mine Workers of America, Reid quoted that part of the CIO constitution which pledges "uncompromising opposition to any form of discrimination, whether political or economic, based on race, color, creed or nationality."

Other highlights of Reid's speech follow:

The CIO is in full agreement that there should be no discrimination against Negroes in defense work, especially since our Negro citizens contribute equally to the taxes of our government and the defense program.

"In defense, in all jobs, in housing, in education, in government in all fields—the CIO stands for complete equality," he said.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

C. I. O. SWEEPS POLL IN 2 FORD PLANTS; SEEKS A CONTRACT

Routs A. F. L. in Winning Right to Bargain for 80,000 Rouge and Lincoln Employes

BENNETT BOWS TO 'LAW'

Thomas, for Union, Asks End of Bitterness, Prepares to Negotiate for Wage Rise

MAY 23 1941

By LOUIS STARK

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, May 22—The United Automobile Workers—C. I. O., in an overwhelming victory over the American Federation of Labor at an election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board, won the right today to bargain exclusively for more than 80,000 hourly rated and production workers at the Ford Motor Company's giant River Rouge plant and its Lincoln plant.

The Rouge plant count was:

C. I. O.—51,866, or 69.9 per cent.
A. F. of L.—20,364, or 27.4 per cent.
Neither—1,958, or 2.6 per cent.
Challenged—3,492.
Void and Blank—143.
Total Valid Vote Cast—74,188.
Total Ballots Cast—77,828.

The Lincoln plant results were:

C. I. O.—2,008.
A. F. of L.—587.
Challenged—MAY 23 1941
Neither—146.
Blank and Void—5.

In the pattern makers' poll in the Rouge plant the C. I. O. had 161 votes, the A. F. of L. Pattern Makers League, 90, and there were 8 for neither, but because 143 votes were challenged the result is in doubt.

The results of the elections, held yesterday, were announced today by Frank H. Bowen, regional director, and Russell Miller, director of elections for the NLRB.

Acceptance by Ford Executive

The Ford Motor Company is the last of the "big three" automobile manufacturers to yield to unionism. General Motors and Chrysler corporations signed contracts with the U. A. W.-C. I. O. in 1937 after bitterly fought strikes. The only strike that ever interrupted production in the Ford plants for thirty years was the one called by the U. A. W.-C. I. O. last month.

Harry Bennett, personnel director of the Ford Company, commented as follows:

"It's a great victory for the Communist party, Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner and the National Labor Relations Board. The law provides that we must live with them and we never violate the law."

I. A. Capizzi, Ford attorney, appeared at a hearing against the company and in response to his request for postponement Horace A. Ruckel, trial examiner for the NLRB, recessed the case until Monday.

"Defeat of Anti-Unionism"

R. J. Thomas, international union president, characterized the outcome as "the end of an era in American industry," and added:

"It means the defeat of the type of uncompromising anti-unionism represented by Henry Ford. Fordism has been repudiated by the men who know it best, by the Ford workers.

"The U. A. W.-C. I. O. is ready to draw the curtain on the past. We hope the Ford Company will do likewise. We are anxious to erase all bitterness and to substitute for it genuine, cooperative collective bargaining.

"We shall immediately seek negotiations for a contract to include a flat 10 cents an hour wage increase for all Ford workers, adequate union recognition, a system of seniority to govern layoffs and rehiring, vacations with pay and all the other elements of a constructive labor agreement."

Widman Expects All in C. I. O.

This statement was made by Michael F. Widman Jr., director of the C. I. O. Ford organizing committee:

MAY 23 1941

"The Ford workers have scored a magnificent victory for democracy in America. The most bitter and most powerful anti-union employer in America has been brought to terms by his employes.

"Within a few days, practically all of the Ford workers who voted for the A. F. of L. or for no union will be C. I. O. members now that this overwhelming vote has shown that the U. A. W.-C. I. O. is indisputably the choice of the vast majority.

"The representatives of the Ford workers who go into negotiate with the Ford management will carry a mandate from this election to win a union contract which will include job protection through seniority, wages comparabel to those paid in other organized automobile plants and general improvements in working conditions long overdue in the Ford plant.

"The U. A. W.-C. I. O. vote in this democratic secret election will be the most powerful single weapon i nthe hands of the negotiators."

System of Ballot Counting

The ballots were tabulated with all parties present in a large room on the second floor of the Federal Building. At tables arranged in a hollow square sat representatives of the Labor Board, the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O.

Board officials first checked absentee soldiers' ballots, which apparently indicated a 10 to 1 preference for the C. I. O.

Then ballots were mixed so that there was no possible clue to any department. An A. F. of L. man tallied the C. I. O. votes while a C. I. O. man looked over his shoulders. A C. I. O. man tallied the A. F. of L. votes while an A. F. of L. man checked his figures.

The efforts of the C. I. O. to organize Ford workers began in 1937 but did not attain much momentum until last Winter when the C. I. O. set aside $100,000 to pay the expenses of the campaign directed by Mr. Widman.

MAY 23 1941

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

PEMISCOT OFFICERS DOUBT NEGRO BEATEN

C. I. O. Makes Complaint Regarding Alleged Assault

SEP 3 1941

Complaint of local C. I. O. officers that a negro cotton picker was beaten while en route to a Southeast Missouri union meeting were discounted yesterday by officers in Pemiscot County, Mo., where the incident allegedly occurred.

Harry Koger, president of the Southern Cotton States Council, C. I. O. affiliate of United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, reported that Roy Hall, the negro, was beaten with "sharp hammers" by three men while on his way to a meeting at Wardell, Mo.

Mr. Koger said that later Hall was taken to jail at Wardell and that efforts of C. I. O. officials to investigate the incident were frustrated by Missouri officers.

According to Marshal A. Bohannon of Wardell, Hall was charged with being drunk, disturbing the peace and tampering with an automobile in front of the homes of Arthur Hopkins and Harry Tompson, who live three miles south of Wardell.

Hall is scheduled for a hearing in Wardell this afternoon before Justice Kelley. He was released under $300 bond made shortly after his arrest by former County Judge T. R. Cole of Pascola, Mo., prominent landowner.

SEP 3 1941

Mr. Koger also charged yesterday that a union meeting near Wilson, Ark., was broken up Monday night by "vigilantes." Sheriff Hale Jackson of Mississippi County said he had had no report of any trouble there.

CIO

351-1941
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Future of Colored Craftsmen Lies in Unions, Conference Told

FEB 12 1941

By the Assc

Hampton, Va., Feb. 11.—Edward S. Lewis, secretary of the Baltimore Urban League, said today "the future of Negroes in the building construction fields is tied up with the future of organized labor."

Lewis and other speakers before the Hampton Builders' Conference and the National Builders Association, at Hampton Institute, agreed that the Negro must thoroughly integrate himself into the union movement. There was disagreement, however, on the relative merits of the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O.

Lewis' assertion that immediate interests of the colored craftsmen made affiliation of the A. F. of L. an imperative move, was criticized by Archibald A. Alexander, of Des Moines, Iowa, a leading colored engineer contractor. Alexander asked the 200 delegates "not to pin your faith on the entrenched trades unions of the A. F. of L. but get in on the ground floor of the C. I. O."

Statements in a local newspaper survey on discrimination in defense housing projects this morning were criticized by discussion leaders—for they stated the conference was concerning itself with the lot of skilled Negro craftsman and had no brief on discrimination against common laborers.

The practical problems of breaking into union ranks were discussed at length by Dean P. V. Jewel of State A. and M. College at Orangeburg, S. C., Howard D. Woodson, a Washington, D. C., engineer, and speakers from the floor.

Defense housing presents for the first time in our history, an opportunity to become thoroughly integrated," Lewis said. He criticised the Negro craftsman who refused to participate actively in union activities.

Alexander said leadership among Negroes is a crying need.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Shows That AFL Has No Foothold in Industry; Calls Claims Fantastic

By Adam Lapin
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3.—Philip Murray, president of the CIO, today described William Green's statement carrying support from the Ford Motor Company, as "a pitiful stab in the back."

Murray declared that the A. F. of L., President's bootlicking attempt to disrupt the CIO Ford drive "will no more prevent its successful conclusion than did his similar attempts during CIO organization of the General Motors and and Chrysler employes."

"Majority of the employes of the Ford Motor Company have signified their support of the UAW-CIO which has already applied for a Labor Board election at the Lincoln plant," Murray declared.

"I cannot imagine that the fantastic claim of President Green of the American Federation of Labor will be taken seriously by anyone" the CIO President said. "Any check-up at Detroit will show that the only union organizing work under way has been that of the CIO United Automobile Workers. The AFL is not even in the picture, except in so far as its officials may have attempted some backdoor intrigues with the Ford Company.

FEB 4 - 1941

DRIVE GAINING

"The CIO in conjunction with its affiliate, the United Automobile Workers, has for months been engaged in an intensive and highly successful organizing campaign at the Lincoln, Highland Park and River Rouge plants of the Ford Company. It has 54 organizers working under the direction of the Ford organizing Committee; distributed 50,000 copies weekly of a special Ford organizing paper; conducts seven regular radio programs; and has 29 union offices open in the vicinity of the Ford plants to handle the applications of Ford employes.

"So great has been the influx of Ford employes into the CIO, in fact, that the office force has recently had to be doubled to cope with the queues of applicants, and the main office has to be kept open day and night.

FEB 4 - 1941

"In contrast, the A. F. of L., has but one small store office in Dearborn which by latest reports is not yet even open for business—aside from its hotel room headquarters in downtown Detroit. It publishes no organizing literature, and there is in fact no evidence of its having conducted any organizing activities among the Ford workers.

"Mr. Green's own statement is a confession that the so-called UAW-AFL is not in the picture. He nowhere mentions the name of this organization but speaks vaguely of 'unions chartered by the AFL,' presumably federal and craft unions —a form of union divisions which the auto workers long ago repudiated in favor of industrial unionism.

RIDICULOUS BLUFF

"Mr. Green's statement is a ridiculous bluff which will fool nobody —least of all the Ford workers. It is an attempt through unfounded publicity to create the appearance of a jurisdictional dispute and thus to confuse the only real issue — whether Ford will recognize and bargain with the UAW-CIO, which alone can speak for his employes.

"Incidentally, Mr. Green shows as little concern for the defense program, as does the Ford company itself, if he is going to inject jurisdictional issues in plants where he has no membership, and where the workers emphatically do not want the form of organization he has to offer. His statement is an apparent attempt to cooperate with Ford in distracting attention from the unfavorable publicity resulting from Ford's refusal to cooperate with the defense program."

FEB 4 1941

Meanwhile, Robert Kenny, president of the Natoinal Lawyers Guild urged the Department of Justice to appeal the Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the Ford case.

The Circuit Court held that Henry Ford had not violated the Wagner Act by distributing anti-union literature to employes at his Dearborn plant, and that by attempting to stop this practice the Labor Board had infringed on Ford's right of "free speech."

CIO leaders and other progressives have been alarmed by the refusal of the department to appeal the Ford case. They fear that unless this decision is appealed all kinds of anti-union practices will be permitted under the guise of "free speech."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

CIO Union Spikes Census Bureau Jim Crow 'Denial'

Repeats Charges of Anti-Negro Discrimination in Government Office, Answers Dr. Reed's Disclaimer Point by Point

FEB 12 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—An attempted denial by Dr. Virgil D. Reed, acting director of the Census, that discrimination against Negroes is widespread in his bureau today brought a statement from Local 23 of the United Federal Workers, CIO, reterating its original charges of discrimination and demanding their immediate correction.

Answering point by point a letter by Dr. Reed, the local's statement says:

"We call upon Dr. Reed to discontinue wasting valuable time in arguing a matter that is obvious to all at the Bureau. Instead, let the Administration begin a businesslike campaign to wipe out this discrimination which exists in so many forms and places throughout the Bureau."

Specifically, the union charges that **"Negroes are systematically relegated to jobs that pay the least, that are least valuable as experience in obtaining other positions and that are of the shortest duration."**

NEGROES SEGREGATED

A statement by Dr. Reed that Negro workers were segregated into "solid Negro sections . . . by mutual agreement with the Negro employes" was directly contradicted by the union.

"The union," it reveals, "has questioned dozens of Negro Census employes, union and non-union, in all types of positions, and none had ever been consulted, or had knowledge of others being consulted, as to whether they preferred to work in a segregated section."

Protesting the resolution of Negro workers to only two operations in the Bureau, the union also revealed that "this system of restricting Negroes to Population and Housing Code only has resulted in reducing more than 350 Negro clerks originally in the Population Division to 80."

Dr. Reed's "denials" were contained in a six-page letter addressed to Hugh Miller, president of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, which is backing the Federal Workers Union in its fight against discrimination.

CIO FAVORS RACE WORKERS ON PROJECT

Would Give Colored Mechanics Ascendency On Housing Project

JAN 24 1941

The C.I.O. favors employment of all colored workers on the million dollar low cost housing project bordering Carr Square, it was revealed this week in a letter to Arnold Walker, Industrial Secretary of the Urban League. The project, which is slated to get underway within the near future, will employ scores of skilled semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

The letter to Mr. Walker reads as follows:

In regard to the conversation you had with Mr. C. L. Armstrong, Secretary of Local No. 62, United Construction Workers, C.I.O., this date. I want to assure you that the policy of the C.I.O., is—that all members of the C.I.O. regardless of Race, Creed, Color or Religious Affiliations, have equal rights.

As there is a Housing Project of six-hundred and fifty-eight (658) dwelling units, etc., to be built at Carr Park Square Village and it is, also, understood that this project is to be built for and occupied by Negroes, it is a matter of common sense that the people who will occupy and eventually pay for these dwellings should be given the right to build them.

You have informed me that some organization has offered to allow a 3.2 percentage of Negro mechanics on any Federal Work.

The Negro mechanics and laborers in the C.I.O. are on an equal footing with any other member of the C.I.O. Locals, and we feel that on this Carr Square Village Housing Project all Negro mechanics should be given preference for this work. The idea of any 3.2 percent, or any other percentage, is not American, particularly on Government Work for which we all pay taxes and support regardless of Politics, Race, Color or Creed.

Fraternally yours,

JAMES T. NASH,
Regional Director,
United Construction Workers,
C. I. O.

defense industries in this area. Practically no skilled positions are filled by Negroes and if we are to get our share under the law we must become active and alert.

Mr. Fred Jones presented a fine picture of the housing situation in St. Louis and showed the unbelievably unhealthful, unsanitary conditions prevailing in the area where the housing project will be built.

Mr. Elmer Mosee gave a brief but pointed resume of the obstacles facing Negroes desiring to enter the armed forces.

Attorney Joseph L. McLemore reported for the committee on the Vashon High School situation.

The branch voted unanimously to act as vigorously as possible to prevent the establishment of an inferior school of journalism at Lincoln University. It was agreed that experience shows that the legislature has no intention to give us one equivalent to that given the whites.

Attorney S. R. Redmond, the resident of the branch, announc-d that about seventy-five votes n the Vashon High School conersion had been sent in and hat he would acquaint the pubic with the result of the vote in ext week's issue of the papers.

Negro Labor New

Houston. Texas

Hundreds of Negroes Join CIO Union; Promised Defense Jobs in Houston; Ace Organizers Stationed Here

APR 29 1941

DEFENSE PROJECTS MAY SET BASIS FOR CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION TO CONTROL HOUSTON LABOR

BY C. W. RICE

While nearly a half million citizens in Houston, one of the largest industrial centers in the Southwest, are chiefly concerning themselves with the European warfare, labor strikes on defense projects at the Ford plants, the continued strike of coal miners that is about to close the defense industries CIO leaders are boasting that they will soon control labor at Houston not only in defense industries but all other types of workers including truckdrivers, common laborers, building trade and dockworkers, etc.

APR 29 1941

In proof of this statement, their Ace organizers who put the job over in the steel and mining sections, automobile industries, lumber industries and longshore work on the Pacific Coast, are headquartering in Houston. The union representatives point with pride to their achievements in the CIO in bringing Henry Ford to a conference table. They boast their control of the defense industries and refer to the fact that the appointment of Sidney Hillman, one of the founders of the CIO, to the chief of labor in the national defense program, shows the strength and influence of the CIO over that of the AF of L.

The CIO claims a membership of 4,000,000 in the major industries.

TACTICS

Methods used by the CIO in increasing its membership varies according to conditions and circumstances . Houston has proved a fertile field for organizers because of the announcement that several large defense industries will be established here; and that the CIO holds contracts with such firms in other sections. For instance, the announcement of a great shipbuilding and steel plant together with the Hughes Tool Company and Cameron Iron Works, encouraged the Steel Workers Organizing Committee to increase its drive in Houston.

APR 29 1941

As soon as the news broke in the papers that the contract had been let for this section, agents of the CIO began to urge all workers who hoped to get good paying jobs in the defense industries to sign up with the CIO. According to reports, hundreds of whites and Negroes are signing up daily. For a small down payment or without any money at all, applicants are issued full fledged membership in the CIO. Those signing up are from practically every class of industry in the city. Most of them are not interested in the CIO as such but are simply interested in getting more money than they are making on jobs they hold.

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Many of these job seekers are members of the Longshoremen, Warehouse and Compress workers organization, affiliate of the AF of L. These workers anticipate dull seasons on the waterfront and want to make extra money during this time. In this way they hold membership in both the CIO and AF of L.

APR 29 1941

Contractors have announced they have not contracted and will not contract with the CIO, AF of L or any union, to furnish labor. They state they will hire workers are they have always. But the CIO is getting around this challenge by reaching the conclusion that if it can get enough membership cards in the hands of all workers even though the contractor refuses to hire through its agency, its members will be on the job, just the same. The CIO can call a strike of its members anywhere and demand union recognition if it has the majority.

APPEAL TO NEGROES

The Labor News learned this week that CIO scouts are in every section of the town directing Negroes to the Milam Building in downtown Houston where workers are furnished a slip which certifies their membership in the United Construction Workers Local No. 175. Literature concerning what the CIO has done and will do for the Negro people at Houston is handed them.

PROMISES TO HELP HOLD JOBS

Negroes who are employed are urged to join the CIO or wear its buttons to keep from getting fired. Many Negroes wearing the buttons have joined the CIO because of fear they will lose their jobs.

The CIO promises the Negro that it will abolish all racial discrimination in labor: It states that it recognizes no barriers of race, creed, color or nationality to full membership in any of its affiliate unions. It opposes any form of political or economic discrimination on account of race.

MANY SKEPTICAL

A survey shows that many leading Negroes including the working classes are yet skeptical of the CIO movement in this section. Many express the opinion there is too much prejudice against the union on account of the charges it is dominated by reds and that those who join it will no doubt have rough sailing in Texas.

DESERT CIO AT BIRMINGHAM

Some of the wind was taken out of the CIO organizers' sail when the Associated Negro Press issued a release on how the CIO had failed the Negro steel workers in Birmingham. Alabama. Negroes who contributed 68 per cent of the 700 workers in two large plants in Birmingham. deserted the CIO for the AF of L claiming the organization had failed in its promises after three years' trial.

Business interests and leaders in the American Federation of Labor and Independent Union movements are expressing deep concern over the gain the CIO is reported making in Houston.

35i-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Bridgeport Unions Open Drive for Negro Jobs

MAR 6 -1941

CIO Locals Begin Action to Fight Employers' Vicious Discrimination Against Negro Job-Seekers; Demand End to Jim-Crow

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 5.—Breaknig down of barriers between white and black workers in industry here is beginning under the combined leadership of CIO unions and Negro youth organizations.

Most recent victory was a decision of the membership of Decca-Siemon Local 258 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America to take advantage of its partial hiring privilege to send Negro workers into the shop at the next opportunity.

The need for hiring Negro workers in shops has similarly been raised before other union meetings in the city and it is expected that shop committees will demand from managements that all discriminatory practices be eliminated. Shop committees from the General Electric Co., Local 203, of the "U. E." as well as other locals have already raised the issue with their managements.

The situation in this industrial center finds most brazen anti-Negro discrimination in practice with only a handful of factories employing Negro workers.

MAR 6 -1941

ONE BRIGHT SPOT

Particular progress has been made in the Bridgeport Brass Co. where the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers has bargaining rights. Workers both black and white in this factory, are proud of the fact that Negro and white workers labor side by side; and that practices of discrimination, while they still persist, are being fought with increasing vigor.

The Bridgeport Industrial Union Council has taken a stand advising its affiliates to deal with this problem and is working together with such organizations as the Bridgeport Negro Youth Council in presenting educational talks before CIO local membership meetings on the subject.

MAR 6 -1941

Caught in the beginning of what promises to be a surge towards unionization of the gigantic proportions, labor leaders in this city are breaking the ground for other developments in addition to doing away with ruling-class inspired racial prejudices.

Already the Bridgeport Industrial Union Council, CIO, central body, has taken a stand in favor of exploring the possibility of independent political action for the municipal elections in November. The hope is that a number of labor or progressive people can be nominated and labor's support mobilized to elect them to various aldermanic positions. At present only "Socialist" deadheads sit in the city's Common Council, people more concerned with pinochle parties and praising Jasper McLevy than in doing things for the workers.

Various locals have taken up the question and several have already endorsed the general idea of inde-

---

CIO

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

CIO Union Reelects Negro President Of Auto Workers Local

MAR 22 1941

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—(CNA) —Twelve hundred workers, 900 of them white, this week re-elected Joseph Jackson, Negro trade unionist, president of the Midland Steel local of the United Automobile Workers of America, CIO.

The election in Midland Steel was for the annual selection of officers and members of the local executive board. Four Negroes ran for office in the union and three, including Jackson, were elected. The others were Edward Webb, member of the grievance committee, and William Finger or delegate to the Cleveland Industrial Union Council of the CIO.

MAR 22 1941

This so the second time within the past five months that Jackson has been selected to lead tre union in Midland.

Knoxville, Tenn. Labor
April 3, 1941

Washington Newspaper Guild Unit Urges Members to Quit CIO Council

Washington, D. C.—Charging that the Washington Industrial Union Council, central body of the CIO in the District, has followed the Communist party line by opposing national defense, the executive committee of the Washington Newspaper Guild, itself a CIO unit, recommended that local guildsmen resign from the council.

The resolution, passed by a vote of 10 to 1 by the executive committee stated in recent months the council has "directed its energies and spent its resources upon actions which are not the proper concern of such a body and followed the Communist party line."

Actions of the council which the guild committee considered favorable to communism included:

Consistent opposition to defense measures, such as the Selective Service Act and the lend-lease bill; participation in the American Youth Congress; affiliation with the American Peace Mobolization; backing of the American Rescue Ship Mission; in dorsement of the National Negro Congress; support of a proposed demonstration at the Glenn L. Martin plant; political activity remote from trade union interest, and harassment of the Roosevelt Administration.

Washington Guild members will vote on the withdrawal from the council in a referendum on April 30. Mrse. Eleanor Roosevelt is a member of the W. N. G.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Ford CIO Local Elects Negro, Denounces KKK

NOV 14 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Nov. 13.—The country's largest local union—the Ford Local of the United Automobile Workers, CIO with a membership of 90,000—held elections for officers at Chadsey High School.

The election was by 300 General Council delegates from the buildings of the huge River Rouge and Lincoln Zephyr empire of the Ford Motor Co.

As chairman of the council the union elected James Couser, tool and die worker. Shelton Tapps, well-known Negro leader and member of the National Negro Congress, was named secretary.

Others elected are James Butler, vice-chairman; Andy Dewar, sergeant-at-arms and James Alloy, guide.

NOV 14 1941

The national council of the Ford locals in 40 cities which consists of 113 delegates, speaking for its 130,000 members, expressed a sharp condemnation of the Ku Klux Klan as an anti-Semitic, anti-Negro and anti-labor organization. Its paper, Ford Facts, published the following resolution which the council adopted unanimously:

"Whereas; the KKK seeks to divide our union and nation into various groups, pitting Negroes against whites, Jews against Gentiles and religious groups against each other, so that the KKK could better destroy our organization,

"Therefor Be It Resolved; that this National Council of Ford locals of the UAW-CIO go on record as being utterly opposed to the policies and program of the Ku Klux Klan and pledge in the Ford locals and all UAW-CIO locals."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

C. I. O. Halts Anti-Union Army Plan to Use Forced Negro Labor in Hawaii

APR ~~16~~ 1941

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15.—Protests from CIO and A. F. of L unions have managed to balk for the time being a War Department plan to send a Negro labor battalion to Hawaii to undercut working conditions of longshoremen on this American island possession in the Pacific.

But it is understood that War Department officials are still thinking of using labor battalions made up of conscript soldiers as a weapon against union labor.

And in retaliation against the successful campaign by labor to prevent the Hawaiian labor plans of the brass hats, the War Department has imposed a strict censorship on all information relating to military activity on offshore bases and possessions.

APR 16 1941

Reliable reports have it that the Hawaiian incident was one of the important factors leading to the order issued last week by Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson putting all information regarding movements of troops to bases as "confidential."

CIO BARS MOVE

CIO Maritime Committee representatives here played the most active role in preventing the War Department from sending a Negro labor battalion to Hawaii.

They stated that they had actually received information that a Negro battalion had actually reached Astoria, Oregon, en route to Hawaii.

APR 16 1941

At this point, CIO representatives protested to Edward McGrady, fromer AFL big shot who is now in charge of labor relations for the War Department, and to other War Department officials.

The Army officials were said to have openly defended their scheme on the ground that it would permit them to save money by using conscripts earning $21 a month for 18 hours a day.

Another argument which McGrady advanced was that the unloading to be done by the labor battalion was of a "confidential" nature and had to be performed by Army men.

APR 16 1941

To this the CIO officials representatives retorted that the materials were no more confidential in Hawaii than on the West Coast where they were loaded by CIO longshoremen.

Protests by the CIO Maritime Committee here backed by CIO and AFL unions in Hawaii as well as by Samuel W. King, delegate of Hawaii in Congress.

Harry Bridges, head of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, wired the CIO Maritime Committee, that there were hundreds of longshoremen in Hawaii who were working only 15 and 20 hours a week.

In addition, there are 200 longshoremen who have been locked out by the Kuai Terminals, Ltd., since last July. CIO union officials have complained that the Labor Board has refused to act in this case.

CIO representatives here pointed out that one effect of the War Department plan would have been to strengthen the position of the anti-labor Kuai Terminals as well as to undermine union labor in Hawaii generally.

APR 16 1941

Significantly, it is understood that the Emergency Shipping Divison of the Maritime Division Commission, in line with the Commission's whole anti-labor policy, first proposed that a labor battalion be sent to Hawaii.

The head of this important newly-created division in the Maritime Commission is a leading ship company official—H. Harris Robson, vice president of the United Fruit Company.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro CIO Brass Workers Pioneer In Unity of Black, White Workers

352

Bridgeport, Conn.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Brass Workers

Our union, the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Local 320, CIO has won a significant victory for more than 4,000 workers employed at the Bridgeport Brass Company. One of the most important demands we won was the increase of ten cents an hour. Because of the rise in rents and the rapid increase in the cost of food and clothing, we sure need this money.

In addition to this ten cents an hour increase, we also won such things as grievance procedure for settlement of all disputes, seniority rights, time and a half for Saturdays, double time for Sundays and holidays, one week's vacation with pay, and four weeks bonus for all workers who are drafted.

JUN 12 1941

Without any question this contract compares favorably with the others gotten by the CIO locals in this area. How were we able to obtain a contract as good as this? The answer lies in the fact that we are building a strong local, and we are united. The center of our strength lies in the Negro and white unity we have achieved.

I am a Negro worker who has been employed in the brass shop for a long time. For many years I fought along with other Negroes and whites to build a union. I have been a member of our present local since its foundation. Now, with our union stronger than it has ever been and with hundreds of new workers joining our local after we demonstrated what we could do, our union must take up in a serious way [illegible] fundamental question.

JUN 12 1941

We must once and for all time fight to get rid of the Jim-Crow policies of job discrimination and segregation practiced by the Bridgeport Brass Company. With the exception of four or five of us, all Negroes are employed in the casting department. Some of us have been here practically 25 years and we're still on the same job. There is no chance for advancement. In addition, we Negroes are segregated in a separate locker and shower room.

Now is the time for our union to discuss seriously the education of our membership. We should take up with the company the question of the employment of Negroes in all departments and in all cases where they qualify for the job. Secondly, we must demand equal opportunity for advancement. A few years ago when the Bridgeport Brass co. refused to hire any more Negroes and for a period of six months did not hire a single one, our union took up the fight and compelled the company to change its policy so that in the casting department a Negro would be hired for every white worker hired.

It is true that we did raise this question in the past, but we did not push it enough. Now, we are stronger, the time is more opportune. Those who re-echo Jim-Crow propaganda and say Negroes and whites could never work together had better look a little more carefully. What better example of harmonious relations do we have than right here in the casting department where Negroes and whites have been working side by side, day after day, for over 25 years? Our own union is a living example of harmonious relations with Neroes and whites sharing leadership and on the union executive board.

JUN 12 1941

Thousands of Negroes are trained for skilled jobs. The very fact that they are denied employment in the biggest shops in Bridgeport and in our country completely exposes the hypocritical talk that this is a war for democracy. So, just as our union set an example in the kind of a contract it negotiated, it should step out and give leadership in the fight against Jim-Crowism.

NEGRO BRASS WORKER.

351-1941

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl

C.I.O.

Little Rock Flees From The CIO

On page one, this issue, is a news story originating in Little Rock, Arkansas, where the CIO is attempting to unionize Negro maids. Two prominent Negroes in the Arkansas capital are allegedly exerting every effort possible to break up the union, and it is indicated in the article that the new union plans to demand $1.00 per day for maids.

When we learn that Negro maids are organizing during this period of costly living, to demand $1.00 per day for labor we think those opposing this effort are assuming a weighty responsibility. If Negro maids are fighting to earn $1.00 per day, what in conscience do they now receive? Do the men who oppose the organization of Negroes in the CIO have information as to the average wage now received by Negro cooks and maids in the city of Little Rock? Is that wage satisfactory to them? This should be the only issue examined.

Many of the maids who look with yearning eyes towards the new union are joining because they feel they can force a 200 per cent raise in their salaries. You and I know that many of these American serfs and vassals are receiving only $2.00 per week. A few receive $3.00. The truth is that the CIO or any other union to which they belong should demand at least a 500 per cent raise.

But back to the false guides who oppose the unionization of black Little Rock workers. We want to understand them a little better. We want it distinctly understood that the Black Dispatch believes in the right of workers to collectively bargain. When we say "workers" we mean all workers, black, white and red. The reason why Negroes are denied a living wage is because they remain unorganized. If Negro maids in the south were, without the outside aid of the CIO, to stage a one-week strike in the south, the wage scale would immediately change. Every effort, however, to organize is usually broken up by alarmists who spread all sorts of "fears" among the workers. Fundamentally, why is it any more evil for black workers to strike than whites? Will our Negro alarmists explain?

Of course we understand and know the stock argument used against the CIO. Negroes are told there is Communist influence in this newest of labor movements and all of the "safe" and conservative black leaders immediately take flight. Even the Negro preacher gets a hump in his back and hikes out across the meadow whenever this charge is brought against the CIO. He warns his congregation not to have anything to do with it, forgetting entirely the Bible says "The truth can belch from the bowels of iniquity."

To our notion the Negro maids in Little Rock should look upon the CIO with somewhat the admiration of the slave mother, who when her hubby came in late at night with one of "Ole Marse's" shoats on his shoulder, exclaimed, "God sent it if the devil did bring it."

We would like to sit in a meeting and listen to the argument of "supposed-to-be" leaders explaining to $2.00 per week slaves they should not organize to demand $1.00 per day. We note in the current story, on the front page, that one of these false guides told his auditors, "We can work out the problems of the race without outside help."

Well, Arkansas is a good state to test out this type of reasoning. We understand that this is a stock argument of white Southerners, believing in state rights and who sanction Jim Crow, segregation, disfranchisement and the mob. The dominant and controling white group in the South have always said "we can work out our racial problems without outside help." The $2.00 per week salaries for Negro maids represents one of the problems worked out and given solution "without outside help." What we have in mind is to determine whether a minority and submerged group can effectively use the techniques and methods of the majority in attempt to organize their economy.

All who know anything about social organization realize that the minority has only one method by which to take advantage of the majority. The majority usually divides and if a sensible and intelligently organized minority joins the winning majority faction they can usually strike a fair bargain regarding minority group problems. There is no other successful path down which the minority may go.

But in a section of the United States designated as the "Solid South," which means that there is no division among the majority, we wonder whether the argument of Negro leaders about "working out the problems of the race without outside help" is not assinine and stupid. Does anybody know of a movement started by those in the "Solid South" having for its purpose raising the salary of Negro women from $2.000 per week to $6.00 per week? Unless this fact is established, the argument of the so-called leaders, telling Negroes not to organize, falls flat. No help comes from the inside and help from the outside is spurned. In such a dilemma, the Arkansas Negro is certainly in a blind alley.

But back to the challenge: "Arkansas Negroes can take care of Arkansas Negroes without outside help."

Just a few years ago, down in Arkansas, Negro sharecroppers attempted to organize against the avaricious landowners. One night in a lonely meeting house near Hoop Spur, the whites shot bullets into the building where the Negroes met. These humble blacks were simply exercising their rights of peaceful assembly, and they were pioneers in the South with respect to collectivism. The Negroes in that meeting shot back and resulting therefrom 67 were condemned to die.

Were the Negroes in any section of Arkansas able to protect the Negroes at Hoop Spur; or better still, did those condemned, defenseless Negroes finally get justice solely through efforts of the Negroes in Arkansas, or is their liberty today a blessing resulting from outside help?

You know the answer to that question. You know the **Negroes of the entire state of voteless Arkansas were paralyzed. Victimized by lies that said the Negroes at the Hoop Spur meeting were laying dark plans to massacre the whites,** no Negroes in Little Rock or anywhere else in Arkansas dared to raise a finger in support of their beleaguered brethren down near Elaine.

Then, as well as now, Negroes were urged to avoid assistance from "Northerners," but outside help came from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The N. A. A. C. P. went into court and fought for seven long years. Negroes from every section of America put up their hard-earned pennies and dimes to bring "outside" help to Arkansas. Today 67 Negroes are free in Arkansas because organized blacks outside the confines of Arkansas knew that unless Negroes hang together they will hang separately.

And surely Negro leaders in Little Rock can remember not so long ago, when many of them, according to news stories, had to flee from their homes because of the eminence of a race riot. The conflict between Arkansas police and Negro soldiers who recently had to flee for their lives near Gurdon, ought to convince even a crazy Negro that Arkansas is a state where Negroes need outside, inside and every other sort of help.

What we say here is not solely an effort to pick on Arkansas. Negro in Oklahoma loaned little assistance to Tulsa Negroes immediately following the 1921 Tulsa riots. Momentarily all of the blacks in the Sooner State were paralyzed. This writer along with Dr. A. B. Whitby of Oklahoma City, was the individual who went into Tulsa taking "outside" money to Tulsa Negroes from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when the charred brick walls on Greenwood were still tumbling into the streets. Oklahoma is one of the most liberal southern states and yet we know only too well there are moments that come in the lives of minority groups when it is dangerous for one brother to help another when stricken by a common foe.

Negro leaders in Arkansas do not want assistance from the CIO although everyone knows that two planks in the CIO platform should have the support of all Negroes. They follow:

1. Unity of the Negro and white workers
2. Abolition of Southern Poll Tax.

If the CIO had never tried to organize Negro maids, Negro leaders of Arkansas should look kindly upon the CIO, because, after all, when the day comes when there is complete unity between the Negro and the white work-

OCT 25 1941

351-1941

C.I.O.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Little Rock Flees From The CIO

On page one, this issue, is a news story originating in Little Rock, Arkansas, where the CIO is attempting to unionize Negro maids. Two prominent Negroes in the Arkansas capital are allegedly exerting every effort possible to break up the union, and it is indicated in the article that the new union plans to demand $1.00 per day for maids.

When we learn that Negro maids are organizing during this period of costly living, to demand $1.00 per day for labor we think those opposing this effort are assuming a weighty responsibility. If Negro maids are fighting to earn $1.00 per day, what in conscience do they now receive? Do the men who oppose the organization of Negroes in the CIO have information as to the average wage now received by Negro cooks and maids in the city of Little Rock? Is that wage satisfactory to them? This should be the only issue examined.

Many of the maids who look with yearning eyes towards the new union are joining because they feel they can force a 200 per cent raise in their salaries. You and I know that many of these American serfs and vassals are receiving only $2.00 per week. A few receive $3.00. The truth is that the CIO or any other union to which they belong should demand at least a 500 per cent raise.

But back to the false guides who oppose the unionization of black Little Rock workers. We want to understand them a little better. We want it distinctly understood that the Black Dispatch believes in the right of workers to collectively bargain. When we say "workers" we mean all workers, black, white and red. The reason why Negroes are denied a living wage is because they remain unorganized. If Negro maids in the south were, without the outside aid of the CIO, to stage a one-week strike in the south, the wage scale would immediately change. Every effort, however, to organize is usually broken up by alarmists who spread all sorts of "fears" among the workers. Fundamentally, why is it any more evil for black workers to strike than whites? Will our Negro alarmists explain?

Of course we understand and know the stock argument used against the CIO. Negroes are told there is Communist influence in this newest of labor movements and all of the "safe" and conservative black leaders immediately take flight. Even the Negro preacher gets a hump in his back and hikes out across the meadow whenever this charge is brought against the CIO. He warns his congregation not to have anything to do with it, forgetting entirely the Bible says "The truth can belch from the bowels of iniquity."

To our notion the Negro maids in Little Rock should look upon the CIO with somewhat the admiration of the slave mother, who when her hubby came in late at night with one of "Ole Marse's" shoats on his shoulder, exclaimed, "God sent it if the devil did bring it."

We would like to sit in a meeting and listen to the argument of "supposed-to-be" leaders explaining to $2.00 per week slaves they should not organize to demand $1.00 per day. We note in the current story, on the front page, that one of these false guides told his auditors, "We can work out the problems of the race without outside help."

Well, Arkansas is a good state to test out this type of reasoning. We understand that this is a stock argument of white Southerners, believing in state rights and who sanction Jim Crow, segregation, disfranchisement and the mob. The dominant and controling white group in the South have always said "we can work out our racial problems without outside help." The $2.00 per week salaries for Negro maids represents one of the problems worked out and given solution "without outside help." What we have in mind is to determine whether a minority and submerged group can effectively use the techniques and methods of the majority in attempt to organize their economy.

All who know anything about social organization realize that the minority has only one method by which to take advantage of the majority. The majority usually divides and if a sensible and intelligently organized minority joins the winning majority faction they can usually strike a fair bargain regarding minority group problems. There is no other successful path down which the minority may go.

But in a section of the United States designated as the "Solid South," which means that there is no division among the majority, we wonder whether the argument of Negro leaders about "working out the problems of the race without outside help" is not assinine and stupid. Does anybody know of a movement started by those in the "Solid South" having for its purpose raising the salary of Negro women from $2.000 per week to $6.00 per week? Unless this fact is established, the argument of the so-called leaders, telling Negroes not to organize, falls flat. No help comes from the inside and help from the outside is spurned. In such a dilemma, the Arkansas Negro is certainly in a blind alley.

But back to the challenge: "Arkansas Negroes can take care of Arkansas Negroes without outside help."

Just a few years ago, down in Arkansas, Negro sharecroppers attempted to organize against the avaricious landowners. One night in a lonely meeting house near Hoop Spur, the whites shot bullets into the building where the Negroes met. These humble blacks were simply exercising their rights of peaceful assembly, and they were pioneers in the South with respect to collectivism. The Negroes in that meeting shot back and resulting therefrom 67 were condemned to die.

Were the Negroes in any section of Arkansas able to protect the Negroes at Hoop Spur; or better still, did those condemned, defenseless Negroes finally get justice solely through efforts of the Negroes in Arkansas, or is their liberty today a blessing resulting from outside help?

You know the answer to that question. You know the **Negroes of the entire state of voteless Arkansas were paralyzed.** Victimized by lies that said the Negroes at the **Hoop Spur meeting were laying dark plans to massacre the whites, no Negroes in Little Rock or anywhere else in** Arkansas dared to raise a finger in support of their beleaguered brethren down near Elaine.

Then, as well as now, Negroes were urged to avoid assistance from "Northerners," but outside help came from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The N. A. A. C. P. went into court and fought for seven long years. Negroes from every section of America put up their hard-earned pennies and dimes to bring "outside" help to Arkansas. Today 67 Negroes are free in Arkansas because organized blacks outside the confines of Arkansas knew that unless Negroes hang together they will hang separately.

And surely Negro leaders in Little Rock can remember not so long ago, when many of them, according to news stories, had to flee from their homes because of the eminence of a race riot. The conflict between Arkansas police and Negro soldiers who recently had to flee for their lives near Gurdon, ought to convince even a crazy Negro that Arkansas is a state where Negroes need outside, inside and every other sort of help.

What we say here is not solely an effort to pick on Arkansas. Negro in Oklahoma loaned little assistance to Tulsa Negroes immediately following the 1921 Tulsa riots. Momentarily all of the blacks in the Sooner State were paralyzed. This writer along with Dr. A. B. Whitby of Oklahoma City, was the individual who went into Tulsa taking "outside" money to Tulsa Negroes from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when the charred brick walls on Greenwood were still tumbling into the streets. Oklahoma is one of the most liberal southern states and yet we know only too well there are moments that come in the lives of minority groups when it is dangerous for one brother to help another when stricken by a common foe.

Negro leaders in Arkansas do not want assistance from the CIO although everyone knows that two planks in the CIO platform should have the support of all Negroes. They follow:

1. Unity of the Negro and white workers
2. Abolition of Southern Poll Tax.

If the CIO had never tried to organize Negro maids, Negro leaders of Arkansas should look kindly upon the CIO, because, after all, when the day comes when there is complete unity between the Negro and the white worker, Negro women will not be working for $2.00 per week and Negro men will be liberated from a $6.00 per week salary scale.

When the day comes when the poll tax is gone in the South, Negro leaders along with Negro masses will have influence in government, and if there is, in that day, unity among black and white workers, one can realize that with their votes, white and black workers will rid the South of its Fascist overlords who promote lynchings and spread discord among racial groups.

OCT 23 1941

What we need in Little Rock and all over America is Negro leadership courageous and visionful. God grant the day will come in this nation when there will rise up black leaders who can tell Negroes how they can win. We have too many false guides and cowards always standing by continuously telling black folk how they can lose. The world hates Hitler, but a pound of Hitler's guts would not hurt Negro leadership, and an ounce of it could with profit be shipped to Little Rock.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

CIO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NEGROES AT HOUSTON SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED BY "BIG SHOT" POLITICIANS UP NORTH WHO SAY THE CIO IS A GOD-SEND FOR RACE WORKERS; HUGHES TOOL WORKERS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR STAND.

NOV 8 1941

AS I SEE IT "big shot" politicians up north such as Horace Cayton, columnist and CIO booster, who flew to Houston during the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and told that delegation that the CIO was a God-send for the Negro race, and that Negroes should line up with that organization to better their working conditions, should send to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, and get a copy of the Supplementary Report on the Hughes Tool Election, Case Number XVI-R-244. This report reveals the rankest discrimination and injustices that were ever practiced against Negroes by any anti-Negro Labor Union. The report also reveals the tactics used by some Negro "mis-leaders" against the welfare of their own race for a few lousy dollars.

The controversy at the Hughes Tool Company over collective bargaining rights and bona fide unions culminated in an election ordered by the Labor Board on August 5, 1941, between the Independent Metal Workers Union and the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, an affiliate of the CIO.

NOV 8 1941

Despite the efforts of some of the most high pressure organizers of the CIO who were imported to Houston to direct a campaign and the large sums of money that was placed at their disposal for campaign purposes, the CIO lost the election by a two-to-one vote. The election was lost because the Negroes voted almost solidly against the CIO.

Instead of the CIO accepting its defeat as it is the custom in all democratic bodies, they continued their trickery and dirty politics by filing with the Board some fifteen or 20 affidavits supposed to have been signed by workers; charging that they had been intimidated by their foremen at the time of the election. The examiner's report shows that only one or two of the twelve persons who signed these affidavits could be produced by the CIO and up on cross-examination said they voted the way they wanted to vote and were not influenced by their employers. It was most ridiculous to find that the CIO through its Negro Organizer, R. R. Grovey, had sent in an affidavit charging one of the foremen with intimidation at the election. A check showed that this foreman was on his vacation in Albuquerque, New Mexico for two weeks prior to the election and was not even in the city during the election. The examiner further found that chief officials of the company had instructed the CIO to report to them any evidence of coercion or intimidation on the part of their foremen or supervisory employees and in one instance the company "demoted" and reprimanded a foreman who remarked to his own brother "You'd better stay out of that CIO." It is also rumored around the city that Grovey and his henchmen offered to pay or did pay some of these workers to sign these affidavits.

SEEK TO DISQUALIFY 800 NEGRO WORKERS

The CIO that claims to be fighting for equal rights and privileges for the Negro citizens including the right to vote in all elections petitioned the Board to classify 800 of the 1,000 Negro workers as porters, which classification would not only make them ineligible to vote in the election but would automatically reduce some of their salaries 50 per cent.

For the record's sake, in this connection we quote an excerpt on this situation from the report:

NOV 8 1941

"An examination of the objections of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee relative to the conduct of the election herein discloses that they are principally based upon alleged interferences with the rights of the colored employees of the Company to vote for the labor organization of their choice in the election. In this connection, the Board's attention is called to the fact that at the hearing in the above proceeding the Steel Workers Organizing Committee contended for a unit which excluded approximately 800 of a possible 1,000 colored employees. The Board in its decision, of course, over ruled the contention of the SWOC in this respect and included the colored employees within the unit. It goes without saying, however, that the SWOC made no effort to organize the colored employees from the beginning of its orginizational drive in 1937 until after the Board's Decision and Direction of Election herein on August 5, 1941. On the other hand, the Independent Metal Workers Union had admitted colored employees to its organization from its very beginning, and had obviously carried on an extensive organizational campaign among them. Under these circumstances, the failure of the SWOC to obtain a substantial vote among the colored employees is easily understandable and, by the same token, the large vote cast by the colored employees for the Independent is accounted for."

NOV 8 1941

AS I SEE IT—the colored workers at Hughes Tool certainly need to be commended for the stand they took in voting against the CIO. It demonstrates that the new Negro today will not be sold or herded into any movement knowingly that is against his welfare for a little handout or flowery speeches made by "would-be" leaders.

AS I SEE IT—Grovey who is classed as an organizer for the CIO is doing an injustice to his race and belittling himself as a leader to continue to hang around the gates of Hughes Tool to harrass and pass out insiduous literature among the workers after the election has been held and the Board has rendered its decision in favor of an independent organization. If the National Board at Washington heeds the recommendation of the original Board to certify the Independent Metal Workers Union (not affiliated with the AFL or CIO) as the sole bargaining agency at the Hughes Tool Plant, it bears out my contention that the Independent Union is just as legal as the AFL or the CIO and has just as much power as far as the law is concerned, as any other union and that Negroes should prefer the Independent Union movement for the protection of their jobs.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

OPM - CIO COAL MINE STRIKE DISPUTES INVOLVE NEGRO

NOV 23

The storm over the union shop in the "captive" coal mines dispute between Big Steel and John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers of America and over a closed shop agreement which OPM granted to the AFL Building Trades unions took on new significance to Negroes this week.

A check by observers in the Negro Labor council revealed that a large proportion of all miners working in captive mines are Negroes. In the Birmingham area, dominated by the powerful United States Steel Corporation Negroes constitute over half the miners in the area.

Moreover nearly 25 out of every 100 miners in Kentucky and West Virginia are Negro and practically all of these men are organized and provide a large percentage of John L. Lewis' leaders in local areas like Birmingham.

National CIO headquarters openly charge OPM with discrimination and favoritism. They claim that 90 per cent of all coal miners in the country and 60 per cent of all captive mines are now operating under the union shop agreement. This is part of the victory which Lewis wrung from independent operators as a result of the coal strike last spring.

NOV 23 1941

Yet while OPM is strongly defending a closed shop agreement for the AFL in defense construction work, even to the extent of excluding Negroes who are not allowed to join some AFL unions, strong opposition is given to the demand of CIO that it be given the union shop in all mines where CIO has a majority of the workers.

Many observers state, though not for publication, that "certain" people fear that John L. Lewis, through the union shop is placing too much power in the hands of Negroes working in "captive" mines.

351-1941

C.I.O.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ford Personnel Officer Criticizes CIO's Benefit To Negro Auto Workers

357

MAR 15 1941

Marshall Declares Records of Closed Shops Do Not Show Any Improvement In Skilled Trade Jobs—Cites the Many Expert Jobs Held by Negroes In Ford Plant That Are Not Equalled In Any CIO Plant.

DEARBORN, Mich, Mar. 13—(ANP)—It is the belief of D. J. Marshall, highest ranking Negro in the personnel department of the Ford Motor Company, that CIO membership has nothing to offer the Negro worker.

He holds that if one is to go on the record of those industries in which CIO is already established, it is to be expected that industrial freedom will not be granted employees who are persuaded to join the union in the future. According to Mr. Marshall there is no CIO shop that employs one skilled colored workman.

Pointing to the record of some shops in the metropolitan area of Detroit, Marshall brought out the fact that the CIO has been instrumental in procuring the discharge of the few Negroes who were working there; while in other shops there has been no active effort on the part of the CIO to better the conditions of Negroes already employed, and nothing constructive has been done to create opportunities for the young boys.

On the other hand, in the Ford company which operates on the open shop basis, Negroes have been hired solely on the criterion of skill. Refuting the allegation that Ford has hired Negroes solely for the purpose of using them as a hammer over white employes, Marshall says that the record indicates that "if this was his purpose, he went far beyound that, because we have more than 75 men in the tool and die trace, more than 75 colored electricians, while, as far as we have been able to ascertain we are the only industrial company hiring more than one."

MAR 15 1941

He continues: "We have in the aeronautical division a colored graduate of Purdue University, who is now engaged in the task of breaking in the apprentices, both white and colored, and he cannot find similar work open to him in any other airplane shop in the country; we also have more than 40 bricklayers with colored foremen, who cannot engage in this occupation in any other industrial shop.

MARSHALL POSES QUESTION

"To go further, we have on our rolls colored chemists, crane operators, sketchmen, time-keepers, mechanics; whenever we find a colored boy with the proper mechanical background and educational qualifications we know with certainty that there is a place for him in the Ford Motor Company."

Mr. Marshall further supports his contention that CIO membership would be of no benefit to Negroes by posing the question: "If conditions are as we believe they are, we would like a statement from the union, why, after three or four years of power in other industrial plants, no steps along the line they are supposed to advocate have been taken."

MAR 15 1941

He concludes: "The proposition seems to resolve itself to this: The union tells colored people that, if they will join the union, they will get industrial freedom; the Negroes at the Ford Motor Company tell the union that if they will give the colored workers this independence in the shops where the union is already established then they might consider unionism."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

CIO UNIONS TO HIT BARRIERS

Will Send Negroes Into Hitherto White Shop

351

MAR 22 1941

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Breaking down of barriers between white and Negro workers in industry here is beginning under the combined leadership of CIO unions and Negro youth organizations.

The most recent victory was a decision of the membership of Decca-Siemon Local 258 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America to take advantage of its partial hiring privilege to send Negro workers into the shop at the next opportunity.

MAR 22 1941

The Bridgeport Industrial Union Council has taken a stand advising its affiliates to deal with this problem and is working together with such organizations as the Bridgeport Negro Youth Council in presenting educational talks before CIO local membership meetings on the subject.

Various locals have taken up the question and several have already endorsed the general idea of independent political action.

Birmingham Ala News
March 16, 1941

Labor—

64

BY BOB KINCEY

IT WAS GOOD NEWS to learn the threatened strike of Ingalls Iron Works Company employes at the Southside plant and the Birmingham Tank Company is not to be.

An agreement was reached during the week, and ratified by the workers, which grants an increase in pay, and clears the way for continued production of goods vital to the national defense program. What the company's side of the argument was or what the union's side was is not being argued here. The important thing is that the men continued to work while negotiations were in progress.

It is to be hoped the same thing will happen during negotiations for a new wage agreement or contract between the nation's bituminous coal producers and the United Mine Workers of America, and it would be a fine thing indeed were a settlement of differences in the steel industry affected without the necssity of a strike.

In this general principle we believe most of the workers are agreed.

* * *

THREE MAJOR AGREEMENTS are now in process of negotiation between the CIO unions and employer groups, it was announced Saturday. At the same time some of the details of a testimonial dinner in honor of William Mitch, to be sponsored by Local 261, United Wholesale & Warehouse Employes, was made public. The dinner will be held at the Negro Masonic Temple on the evening of March 30, and is expected to draw a large gathering of Negro members and their friends to express the esteem in which Mr. Mitch is held by the Negro workers. Several prominent members of the CIO will address the meeting.

* * *

PRESIDENT WILLIAM GREEN, of the American Federation of Labor, announced Saturday union charters have been issued to employes in various divisions of the International Harvester Company. Mr. Green predicted that the 47,000 employes of the company would become organized into the AFL within a short time.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

352

CIO Membership No Benefit To Race Says Ford Official

Not A Single CIO Auto Shop Employed Skilled Negro Workers

MAR 14 1941

DEARBORN, Mich.—(ANP)—It is the belief of J. D. Marshall, highest ranking Negro in the personnel department of the Ford Motor company, that CIO membership has nothing to offer the Negro worker.

He holds that if one is to go on the record of those industries in which CIO is already established, it is to be expected that industrial freedom will not be granted employes who are persuaded to join the union in the future. According to Mr. Marshall there is no CIO shop that employs one skilled colored workman.

MAR 14 194

OUST NEGROES

Pointing to the record of some shops in the metroplitan area of Detroit, Marshall brought out the fact that the CIO has been instrumental in procuring the discharge of the few Negroes who were working there; while in other shops there has been no active effort on the part of the CIO to better the conditions of Negroes already employed, and nothing constructive has been done to create opportunities for the young boys.

On the other hand, in the Ford company which operates on the open shop basis, Negroes have been hired solely on the criterion of skill. Refuting the allegation that for the purpose of using them as a hammer over white employes Marshall says that the record indicates that "if this was his purpose, he went far beyond that, because we have more than 75 men in the tool and die trade, more than 75 colored electricians, while certain we are the only industrial as far as we have been able to ascompany hiring more that one.

He continues: "We have in the aeronautical division a colored graduate of Purdue university. who is now engaged in the task of breaking in the appprentices, both white and colored, and he cannot find similar work open to him in any other airplane shop in the country: We also have more than 40 bricklayers with colored foremen, who cannot engage in this occupation in any other industrial shop.

"To go further, we have on our rolls colored chemists, crane operators, sketchmen, time-keepers, mechanics; whenever we find a colored boy with the proper mechanical background and educational qualifications we know with certainty that there is a place for him in the Ford Motor Company."

Mr. Marshall further supports his contention that CIO membership would be of no benefit to Negroes by posing the question: "If conditions are as we believe they are, we would like a statement from the union why, after three or four years of power in other industrial plants, no steps along the line they are supposed to advocate have been taken."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

356
CIO

Union Brother: Earl Leath, newly-elected steward of Local 806, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (CIO) at Dayton, Ohio, is congratulated by the noted basso, Paul Robeson. Here (left to right) are: John T. Gojack, field organizer for the union, Mr. Robeson, Mr. Leath, and K. M. Kirkendell, Local 806 organization director.

MAY 15 1941

35i-1941 C.I.O.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'Vote CIO'--Negro Appeal Urges Unity in Ford Poll

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, May 15.—Negro workers in this city were told today in an Open Letter issued by the local council of the National Negro Congress that May 21—the day of union elections in the Ford River Rouge plant—"is your day. Bandanna days are over."

In a man-to-man tribute to the heroic Negro employes of the Ford Co. who stood shoulder to shoulder with their white brothers in the historic 10-day strike at River Rouge, the letter reminds Negro workers that they have but one choice when they mark their ballots to choose their collective bargaining agent — to vote for the United Auto Workers Union, CIO.

"Labor unity can work miracles," the letter asserts.

NEGRO LEADERS SIGN

The document, which is being distributed in thousands of copies throughout the Negro communities of this city, is signed by Detroit's outstanding Negro leaders, including State Senator Charles C. Diggs; the Rev. Charles A. Hill, pastor of the Hartford Ave. Baptist Church and president of the Michigan Division of the National Negro Congress; C. Le Bron Simmons, president of the Detroit Council of the Congress; Robert Evans, secretary of the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Pepole.

Also Dr. E. C. Boddie; Nellie H Watts, vice-president of the Detroit Citizens Committee; the Rev. William S. Bowman, international representative of the UAW-CIO; Edward Tolan, acting chairman of the Greater Detroit Youth Assembly; Leon Bates, international representative of the UAW-CIO; Frank McDonald, Civil Rights Federation; Dr. Herbert E. Simms.

Also Louise Blackman, Michigan Chronicle; Audrey Boulding, president of the Frederick Douglass Council of the NNC; the Rev. John Miles; Hodges Mason, Civil Rights Federation; Coleman A. Young, executive secretary of the Michigan Division of the NNC; Joseph C. Cole; John Simmons, president of the Bethel League No. 2; and Samuel Johnson, AFL Local 295.

TEXT OF LETTER

The Open Letter follows:

"AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEGRO FORD WORKERS

"Dear Friends:

"May 21, election day, dawns for you along the River Rouge!

"Within a few days the giant plant of Henry Ford will be organized. Courageous black and white men will choose the organization which will represent their interests and bargain with the auto king. You have won that right.

"Eighty thousand Ford hirelings will gain a new status. Black labor will take on new dignity. It will breathe more freely. Election day is your day. Bandanna days are over.

"Your bargaining agent, your union, will be the protector of your jobs. You will not have to pay to work.

"You have made billions of dollars for Henry Ford; yet you never knew whether you would or would not have a job on the morrow. Ford dictated that.

"Now you can have job security!

"THIS IS YOUR DAY

"Questions of wages and hours, of who shall work and where; of shop conditions and of promotion, will be decided by you who make the wheels at River Rouge turn around. Through your own chosen organization each one of you will have a voice in his own working life. That is Americanism. That is democracy.

"Black and white, you have had to pay for your jobs. You have been hounded by labor spies every working hour or beaten by hired thugs called service men, who even pry their way into your homes. You have been broken by a murderous speed-up. The election is the way out.

"King Ford will lose his 'divine rights.' You who stand upon the 'line' will have a voice in your own destiny.

"Make May 21 a decisive day in the history of American labor struggles.

"Make May 21 a memorable day in the struggle of Negro labor to win an equal place for itself alongside of your white brother.

"The Ford election will make history.

"Always you stood with your hand out, now you can stand with your head up.

"You are confronted with a grave responsibility. Before you is the UAW-CIO and the AFL. You must choose. In fact, you have only one choice.

"Twenty years black men have tried and failed to smash Jim-crow policies of the AFL.

"A few days ago in Washington, D. C., Dr. Robert A. Weaver spoke. He knows of what he spoke because he is part of the Office of Production Management. Of the jim-crow unions all were 'American Federation of Labor,' he said. He added that he 'found no discrimination against Negroes by the CIO unions.'

"The choice you, who are black men make, must be in your own interests. Then only will it be in the interests of your people. Their interests lie with the CIO. That is where your economic interests lie.

"The UAW-CIO forced this historic election upon King Henry I and Crown Prince Edsel. Its struggles give you the chance to free yourselves from Ford's 'charity.'

"THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE

"There were those who said this day would never come. You heard them on every corner. The pessimists. The defeatists. Those who had no faith in labor. Men who quaked before the seemingly invincible power of Ford. Not all were black.

"Some cringingly accepted the attacks of Ford upon Negro and Catholic and Jew. They accepted the alliance of Ford's Dearborn Independence with the Ku Klux Klan. They accept the jim-crow town of Dearborn itself and the ghettos Ford built for black men and women.

"'Ford can't be cracked!' they said.

"But in the ranks of the CIO were black and white men who knew better. Labor unity can work miracles.

"You built the UAW within the the feudal realm of Ford. You are the all-powerful.

"Now you know job control and job security must be won in struggle. Seniority rights are not given, but taken.

"You stopped the wheels of that open-shop citadel of reaction at River Rouge. You performed the impossible. You cracked Ford's. Now your vote must seal that victory.

"In the UAW you forced the auto king to negotiate. In the UAW you can force the king to bargain. Unity, around the banner of the UAW, is the key to your problems in the shops.

"Negro men in steel and packing are watching these elections. Those men watched Ford's efforts to provoke race riots. In the UAW you stopped those attempts to split the unity of white and black in Ford's.

"YOU WILL NOT FAIL THEM

"The AFL worked with Ford's service men and women. In the UAW you stopped the terror of those armed thugs of Henry.

"Do you know the significance of that victory?

"As Ford is beaten back, the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan are beaten back. In the UAW-CIO you have the power; you have the will.

"The friends of Ford are the enemies of labor, black and white. The AFL top leaders are the friends of Henry Ford.

"Stop, Negro worker, and ponder this fact!

"Twenty internationals in the AFL bar Negroes.

"'Some AFL unions, by constitutional provision, admit,' said Mr. Weaver, 'only white persons, while others, which have no such provisions, exclude Negroes by license policies or other ways'.

"Which will you choose? This is your day!

"The hypocrisy of the leadership of the AFL is universally known.

"The leadership of the AFL has no fight with Henry Ford. Yet Fordism is the enemy of the people. No man can attack one minority group but what he attacks them all.

"Fordism baits the Jew, the Catholic, the Negro and the foreign-born.

"Fordism seeks to smash the unity of labor in general and of the white and Negro worker in particular. Abraham Lincoln once said:

"'All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between the two.

"'If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other.'

"There stands Henry Ford, King of the open-shop condemned by Lincoln.

VOTE CIO

"Vote CIO in defense of America and for complete equality for black men upon the labor front.

"Vote UAW-CIO for seniority, job security, promotion and the end of the speed-up system.

"Vote for democracy and jobs, prosperity and peace. Vote UAW-CIO."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE C. I. O. VICTORY AT FORD'S

By an overwhelming majority the United Automobile Workers Union of the C. I. O. has won the right to represent the workers at the Ford Automobile Company's plant in Detroit, thus ending a bitter four-year struggle.

From the beginning this newspaper urged the Negro workers to join with their white comrades and present a united front for industrial democracy, and our position has been justified by events.

Had the Negro workers in the Ford plant held aloof from the C. I. O. auto workers union their position would now be unenviable, and those Negro leaders in Detroit who urged them not to join the union would have reason to be greatly concerned about the future.

As it is, a great victory has not only been won for collective bargaining but also for race relations.

When men of different racial groups fight side by side for a common and important objective, an understanding and camaraderie is established which is felt in every walk of life.

With organized labor growing more powerful in this country daily, it would be extremely foolish for Negro labor to stand aside and ignore the plain handwriting on the wall.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Unionists Hold Defense Conference

NOV 11 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

NEWARK, Nov. 10.—The struggle against Hitlerism "is primarily a struggle against those forces which would enslave labor so as to guarantee the great wealth of a privileged few," while the struggle of the Negro people for jobs and for training to fit into defense industry "is closely linked with the destiny of labor."

Ferdinand Smith, Negro executive secretary of the CIO National Maritime Union, speaking here yesterday afternoon before Negro and white delegates to a trade union conference called by the Negro Labor Committee of District 50, United Mine Workers of America, CIO, to plan a program for complete equality of the Negro in the defense industry, said also that all other questions must now be subordinated to the defeat of Hitlerism abroad and "eradication of all vestiges of human oppression from these United States."

The purpose of the conference, held at the New Jersey State Regional Office of the Gas, By-Product Coke and Chemical Workers Union, District 50, United Mine Workers of America, CIO, 225 Halsey St., was to take action for ending Negro discrimination in housing and in public places and for bringing about equality of Negro workers both in defense jobs and in the training for these jobs. The conference was intended also to demand legislative action to enforce anti-discrimination laws and to propose further measures for curtailing discrimination against Negroes.

Smith said at the beginning of his speech that the President and the American people "realize that if Hitlerism would be defeated, the people of Europe liberated and the people of the Americas saved from destruction by Nazism, the differences existing among us as individuals or groups must be subordinated to the greater effort," defeat of Hitlerism "and all it stands for."

He said at another point:

STRESSES JOB TRAINING

"Because of a long established policy of discrimination in certain industries, and particularly in certain skilled trades, the Negro people have not been afforded an opportunity to qualify themselves for certain jobs. Because of this we feel that any training program that is undertaken to fit workers generally for service in the defense program should not be limited but should include all workers whether black or white."

Some Negro people, Smith pointed out, are inclined to be indifferent of the outcome of the present war, because they say, conditions could hardly be worse for them.

"This is a dangerous trend," he said. "However, simply to say it is dangerous is not enough. We must show that the only difference between those responsible for the oppression of the Negro people and the conditions under which the people enslaved by Hitler are suffering is that the burtality of Hitlerism is backed by a mighty military dictatorship, while the people responsible for the Negro's condition are held somewhat in check by an enlightened public opinion."

Need for More Talk Displeases Miners

By OLLIE STEWART
Staff Correspondent

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—If you dig deep enough you will find coal anywhere under the City of Pittsburgh. If you talk long enough to the people who work here you'll eventually wind up discussing coal. And if you breathe at all you'll inhale coal. "Smoky City" is a very mild understatement.

Pittsburgh and black fuel are synonomous.

The six-day captive coal mine strike which ended last Saturday in an agreement that its issue be submitted to arbitration, with both sides bound to accept the results, is generally regarded as a victory for the United Mine Workers of America by union officials.

NOV 29 1941

Miners Back to Work

The miners are not sure how they feel. They went back to work on Monday, trying to look and feel jubilant—but it took a lot of effort. They don't like the word "arbitration." They want a closed (union) shop in the captive mines, and never mind the talk.

The opinion is that they will get what they want in the end—when Benjamin F. Fairless, Dr. John R. Steelman and John L. Lewis get together—but every miner I talked with wanted a union contract before he went back down into the mine.

This goes for the 53,000 captive miners who were called out by John L. Lewis when the steel companies refused to deal with the PMW, and also for the estimated 125,000 commercial miners who struck in sympathy.

Approximately 40,000 of the striking miners were colored. This includes Districts Two, Three, Four and Five in Pennsylvania, and Districts Thirty-one and Seventeen in Fairmount and Southern West Virginia.

Three Main Districts

There are three main districts in Western Pennsylvania—Three, Four and Five. District Two has only a small number of colored miners.

Approximately 8,800 men were affected by the strike in District Five, which is the Pittsburgh area. About 1200 of these were colored. Commercial mines in this area are worked by about 10,000 colored, approximately 25 per cent of the total number of men employed.

The Pittsburgh area is divided by counties and includes Beaver, Butler, Mercer, part of Allegheny, Washington, part of Greene, part of Fayette and Brooke County, W.Va.

The Brent mine in Butler County employs 250 colored men in captive mines. Republic Steel's Indianola mine has 175. About 50 are in the Allegheny and Ludentown. West Penn Power Company and Duquesne Light Company (utilities) hire 55 and 50 colored, respectively. National No. 1 of U.S. Steel had 200, No. 3 had 200, and hundreds of others work in Bethlehem Steel's Industrial Colliers and Republic's Clarksville (Clyde No. 1) and Fredericktown (Clyde No. 3) mines.

Many in District 4

At least 40 per cent of the captive miners in District Four are colored. This is the section with the heaviest non-white representation. Here the H. C. Frick Company, Republic Steel, Weirton Coal Company, Wheeling Steel and Connelsville Coke Company employ thousands of men.

This is known as the Uniontown area or Connelsville Coke region — and includes Fayette County, Greene and a portion of Westmoreland.

District Three is around Greenburg. It includes the remaining part of Westmoreland, is not large but has about 20 per cent of its miners colored.

4 Among Wounded

At least four of the thirteen men wounded in disturbances during the six days of the strike were colored. As in most such cases, soon after the walk-out occurred, mine operators tried to bring in colored miners as scabs to break the strike. But this time they had no luck.

Union officials readily declare that colored men stuck by the union and did their share of picketing. And except for a few miners working for the H. C. Frick Company under "Yellow Dog" contracts, practically all colored miners came out of the mines when the order was given—and stayed out until told to return. They knew what they were striking for, and made a sacrifice to get it.

The Yellow Dog contract, incidentally, is an agreement whereby a man agrees never to join a union. Colored men who signed them back in 1922 when organized labor wouldn't admit them, did so when companies insisted upon it before they could go to work as strike breakers. Now when every miner has equal rights in the United Mine Workers (and most other CIO unions) such contracts are being broken fast and furiously.

Refused Closed Shop

The strike was called by John L. Lewis. Steel companies owning the so-called "captive" coal mines refused to grant a closed shop to men working in their mines. Men working in commercial mines have closed shop protection known as the Appalachian Agreement, entered into between Western Pennsylvania Coal Operators and the United Mine Workers of America, effective last April 1.

Under it, miners get a basic pay rate of $7 a day. Men who handle the loading machines get $9 a day for 7 hours of work for a five-day week—and time and a half for overtime. Various jobs in and around the mines bring different wages, but the lowest paid worker is a slate picker, on the outside — and he gets $5.15 a day.

Buys Own Supplies

A miner rents his head lamp for 8 cents a day, and buys his blasting powder and detonation caps at cost from the company.

He has to pay for Social Security out of his salary, a small amount for the check weighman's salary (weighman records his output in the mine), and pays union dues. Union cost is $1.50 a month, and international assessment is 50 cents a month. Miners get paid twice a month.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE C. I. O. VICTORY AT FORD'S

By an overwhelming majority the United Automobile Workers Union of the C. I. O. has won the right to represent the workers at the Ford Automobile Company's plant in Detroit, thus ending a bitter four-year struggle.

From the beginning this newspaper urged the Negro workers to join with their white comrades and present a united front for industrial democracy, and our position has been justified by events.

Had the Negro workers in the Ford plant held aloof from the C. I. O. auto workers union their position would now be unenviable, and those Negro leaders in Detroit who urged them not to join the union would have reason to be greatly concerned about the future.

As it is, a great victory has not only been won for collective bargaining but also for race relations.

When men of different racial groups fight side by side for a common and important objective, an understanding and camaraderie is established which is felt in every walk of life.

With organized labor growing more powerful in this country daily, it would be extremely foolish for Negro labor to stand aside and ignore the plain handwriting on the wall.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Unionists Hold Defense Conference

NOV 11 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

NEWARK, Nov. 10.—The struggle against Hitlerism "is primarily a struggle against those forces which would enslave labor so as to guarantee the great wealth of a privileged few," while the struggle of the Negro people for jobs and for training to fit into defense industry "is closely linked with the destiny of labor."

Ferdinand Smith, Negro executive secretary of the CIO National Maritime Union, speaking here yesterday afternoon before Negro and white delegates to a trade union conference called by the Negro Labor Committee of District 50, United Mine Workers of America, CIO, to plan a program for complete equality of the Negro in the defense industry, said also that all other questions must now be subordinated to the defeat of Hitlerism abroad and "eradication of all vestiges of human oppression from these United States."

The purpose of the conference, held at the New Jersey State Regional Office of the Gas, By-Product Coke and Chemical Workers Union, District 50, United Mine Workers of America, CIO, 225 Halsey St., was to take action for ending Negro discrimination in housing and in public places and for bringing about equality of Negro workers both in defense jobs and in the training for these jobs. The conference was intended also to demand legislative action to enforce anti-discrimination laws and to propose further measures for curtailing discrimination against Negroes.

Smith said at the beginning of his speech that the President and the American people "realize that if Hitlerism would be defeated, the people of Europe liberated and the people of the Americas saved from destruction by Nazism, the differences existing among us as individuals or groups must be subordinated to the greater effort," defeat of Hitlerism "and all it stands for."

He said at another point:

STRESSES JOB TRAINING

"Because of a long established policy of discrimination in certain industries, and particularly in certain skilled trades, the Negro people have not been afforded an opportunity to qualify themselves for certain jobs. Because of this we feel that any training program that is undertaken to fit workers generally for service in the defense program should not be limited but should include all workers whether black or white."

Some Negro people, Smith pointed out, are inclined to be indifferent of the outcome of the present war, because they say, conditions could hardly be worse for them.

"This is a dangerous trend," he said. "However, simply to say it is dangerous is not enough. **We must show that the only difference between those responsible for the oppression of the Negro people and the conditions under which the people enslaved by Hitler are suffering is that the burtality of Hitlerism is backed by a mighty military dictatorship, while the people responsible for the Negro's condition are held somewhat in check by an enlightened public opinion."**

Need for More Talk Displeases Miners

NOV 29 1941

By OLLIE STEWART
Staff Correspondent

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—If you dig deep enough you will find coal anywhere under the City of Pittsburgh. If you talk long enough to the people who work here you'll eventually wind up discussing coal. And if you breathe at all you'll inhale coal. "Smoky City" is a very mild understatement.

Pittsburgh and black fuel are synonomous.

The six-day captive coal mine strike which ended last Saturday in an agreement that its issue be submitted to arbitration, with both sides bound to accept the results, is generally regarded as a victory for the United Mine Workers of America by union officials.

Miners Back to Work

The miners are not sure how they feel. They went back to work on Monday, trying to look and feel jubilant—but it took a lot of effort. They don't like the word "arbitration." They want a closed (union) shop in the captive mines, and never mind the talk.

The opinion is that they will get what they want in the end—when Benjamin F. Fairless, Dr. John R. Steelman and John L. Lewis get together—but every miner I talked with wanted a union contract before he went back down into the mine.

This goes for the 53,000 captive miners who were called out by John L. Lewis when the steel companies refused to deal with the PMW, and also for the estimated 125,000 commercial miners who struck in sympathy.

Approximately 40,000 of the striking miners were colored. This includes Districts Two, Three, Four and Five in Pennsylvania, and Districts Thirty-one and Seventeen in Fairmount and Southern West Virginia.

Three Main Districts

There are three main districts in Western Pennsylvania—Three, Four and Five. District Two has only a small number of colored miners.

Approximately 8,800 men were affected by the strike in District Five, which is the Pittsburgh area. About 1200 of these were colored. Commercial mines in this area are worked by about 10,000 colored, approximately 25 per cent of the total number of men employed.

The Pittsburgh area is divided by counties and includes Beaver, Butler, Mercer, part of Allegheny, Washington, part of Greene, part of Fayette and Brooke County, W.Va.

The Brent mine in Butler County employs 250 colored men in captive mines. Republic Steel's Indianola mine has 175. About 50 are in the Allegheny and Ludentown. West Penn Power Company and Duquesne Light Company (utilities) hire 55 and 50 colored, respectively. National No. 1 of U.S. Steel had 200, No. 3 had 200, and hundreds of others work in Bethlehem Steel's Industrial Colliers and Republic's Clarksville (Clyde No. 1) and Fredericktown (Clyde No. 3) **mines.**

Many in District 4

At least 40 per cent of the captive miners in District Four are colored. This is the section with the heaviest non-white representation. Here the H. C. Frick Company, Republic Steel, Weirton Coal Company, Wheeling Steel and Connelsville Coke Company employ thousands of men.

This is known as the Uniontown area or Connelsville Coke region — and includes Fayette County, Greene and a portion of Westmoreland.

District Three is around Greenburg. It includes the remaining part of Westmoreland, is not large but has about 20 per cent of its miners colored.

4 Among Wounded

At least four of the thirteen men wounded in disturbances during the six days of the strike were colored. As in most such cases, soon after the walk-out occurred, mine operators tried to bring in colored miners as scabs to break the strike. But this time they had no luck.

Union officials readily declare that colored men stuck by the union and did their share of picketing. And except for a few miners working for the H. C. Frick Company under "Yellow Dog" contracts, practically all colored miners came out of the mines when the order was given—and stayed out until told to return. They knew what they were striking for, and made a sacrifice to get it.

The Yellow Dog contract, incidentally, is an agreement whereby a man agrees never to join a union. Colored men who signed them back in 1922 when organized labor wouldn't admit them, did so when companies insisted upon it before they could go to work as strike breakers. Now when every miner has equal rights in the United Mine Workers (and most other CIO unions) such contracts are being broken fast and furiously.

Refused Closed Shop

The strike was called by John L. Lewis. Steel companies owning the so-called "captive" coal mines refused to grant a closed shop to men working in their mines. Men working in commercial mines have closed shop protection known as the Appalachian Agreement, entered into between Western Pennsylvania Coal Operators and the United Mine Workers of America, effective last April 1.

Under it, miners get a basic pay rate of $7 a day. Men who handle the loading machines get $9 a day for 7 hours of work for a five-day week—and time and a half for overtime. Various jobs in and around the mines bring different wages, but the lowest paid worker is a slate picker, on the outside — and he gets $5.15 a day.

Buys Own Supplies

A miner rents his head lamp for 8 cents a day, and buys his blasting powder and detonation caps at cost from the company.

He has to pay for Social Security out of his salary, a small amount for the check weighman's salary (weighman records his output in the mine), and pays union dues. Union cost is $1.50 a month, and international assessment is 50 cents a month. Miners get paid twice a month.

351-1941

C.I.O.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

CIO LAUDED AS GREATEST HOPE OF COLORED WORKERS

John L. Lewis Organization Is More Democratic Than AFL, Writer States

DEC 12 1941

NEW YORK (NNS)—The more one studies the nature and growing influence of the CIO the more it becomes apparent that his movement constitutes the only really stable factor of hope in the American scene to which the masses of working, farming and Negro people can look for leadership in the sharpening crisis facing this nation. It is the strongest bulwark American democracy, such as it is, possesses, and to Negroes it represents the denial of the notion that the trade union movement is anti-democratic and completely chauvinistic. Beside the moribund American Federation of Labor it stands out in violent contrast like a flaming meteor. The CIO represents the exact opposite of the worst features and practices of the A. F. of L. For the measure of the democratic worth of a labor movement is its attitude toward the problem of the Negro, his place in American society. The leadership of the A. F. of L. has plainly stated where it stands on this issue, against the extension of full rights and equal privileges of membership to Negro labor. The CIO has, on the other hand proved by consistent application of its policies the sincerity of its desire to organize the mass of American wage-earners to share in the fruits of democracy, and extend its program to Negro workers without any reservations.

DEC 12 1941

The CIO has by its activities added dignity to the lives of millions of working people throughout the land, and by its successful battles against monopoly enlarged the nation's democracy and the prosperity of its stop and consider the gains CIO or- people. Negroes would do well to ganizations have brought to hundreds of thousands of Negro workers in industryy. Its accomplishments have been tremendous and can only be fully appreciated in the light of the opposition which stood in the way.

35i-1941 CIO

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

JUN 2 1941

'Union Will Strike for Negro Rights,' United Auto Workers Leader Says

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 1.—The CIO union in the Murray Body Corp., makers of airplanes, will strike if the company fails to live up to its contract in hiring and advancing Negro employes, Lloyd Jones, president of Local 2 of the United Automobile Workers of America, told the National Negro Congress here last week.

Coleman Young, executive secretary of the Michigan Division of the National Negro Congress, had been requested by John P. Davis, national secretary, to ascertain the number of Negroes in aircraft construction training in Detroit and particularly to investigate conditions at the Murray Corp. school and the new airplane plant, now nearing completion.

Commenting on the CIO official's assurances of support, if needed, Mr. Young said:

"Some time ago Attorney LeBron Simmons, president of the Detroit Council of the National Negro Congress, called upon Lloyd Jones about a situation at Murray Body's aircraft training school, to which Negroes were refused admission. Mr. Jones offered the support of his union to the Negro Congress in this fight for Negro jobs and job training. As a result of this collaboration between the Congress and the union, Negroes are now in the Murray aircraft body training school."

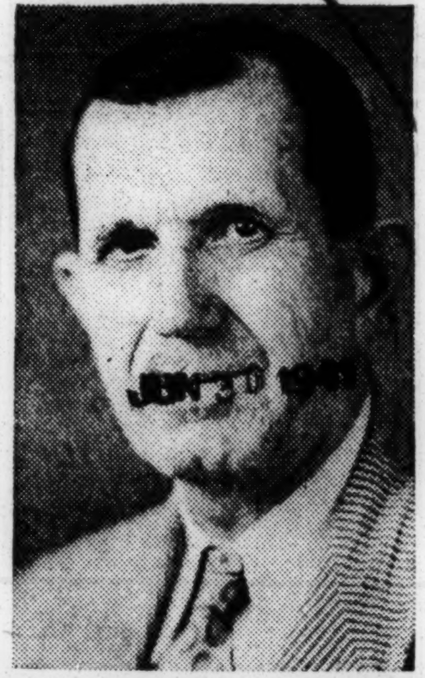
In his reply to Mr. Davis' request for facts on conditions of employment of Negroes in the Murray Body Corporation, Mr. Young wrote in part as follows:

"Board of education figures as of April 1-15, 1941, show that out of a total of 654 students in aircraft construction schools, 25 are Negro. Management at Murray Body say out of 35 students in Murray's aircraft construction school, three are Negroes; that six of 50 men now working in new aircraft plant are Negro. Officials assure that as hiring in new plant increases and production gets under way within four months, Negroes will be integrated without discrimination, as specified by union contract. Lloyd Jones, president of Murray local CIO, corroborates company's figures. Says union will strike if necessary to insure company lives up to agreement regarding Negroes."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

JUN 30 1941

Radicals Flayed



William Mitch, CIO chieftain, who charged Sunday that Communist activity has been endeavoring to work through meetings of the Alabama State Industrial Union Council (CIO).

MITCH CHARGES REDS ACTIVE IN STATE CIO UNIT

Resolutions Oppose New Dies Fund; Or Wage Law Weakening

Charge that Communist activity had been at work at former meetings of the council and was at work in the current meeting, was made Sunday afternoon by William Mitch, president of the Alabama State Industrial Union Council of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, at the closing session of the council's third annual constitutional convention at the Pickwick Club.

Charging there had never been a meeting of the council without Communist activity endeavoring to work through it, Mitch said he was not being fooled.

"I know some of the dirty, slimy work going on in this convention," he asserted.

The council president, also president of District 20, United Mine Workers of America, did not explain the nature of this work but he said there was less of it, compared to former meetings.

Resolutions Adopted

Resolutions opposing any further appropriations by Congress for the Dies Committee and prohibiting all members of the Communist Party, Nazi Bund and Ku Klux Klan from being seated as delegates or holding office in the council, were adopted Sunday by the delegates from the various CIO affiliates, comprising the council.

The resolution opposing further congressional appropriations for the Dies Committee, adopted Sunday afternoon at the closing session of the convention, charged the committee had "from time to time, given out lists of names of representatives of labor and others, whom they charge with subversive activities with evident aim to 'smear' the good name of said leaders of labor and if possible weaken their outstanding usefulness."

The resolution said in part that "we feel that government tax money can be used for a better purpose, such as feeding the unemployed and [illegible] and that the work the Dies Committee was supposed to do can better be done by a reliable, responsible branch of our government."

The resolution prohibiting members of the Communist Party, Nazi Bund and Ku Klux Klan from being seated as delegates at the third annual constitutional convention of the council, was adopted at the Sunday morning session. Introduced by John J. Schulter, business manager of the United Wholesale & Warehouse Employes Union, the resolution also urged that a similar resolution be introduced at the next national CIO convention.

AFL Is Assailed

Resolutions adopted Sunday afternoon, in addition to the one on the Dies Committee, included one assailing the American Federation of Labor. This resolution, in part.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

JUL 27 1941

Armour's Affiliate Piles Up Big Profits on Low Pay, Soaring Prices

Housewives have been forced to pay from 10 to 20 per cent more for their meats than a year ago. Meat corporations have been fattening up on enormous profits. But the men and women working for the New York Butchers Dressed Meat Company, an Armour affiliate, continued to work in "Jungle" conditions for miserably low wages until Locals 640 and 334 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL, called 800 workers out of the huge meat plant at 39th St. and 11th Avenue two weeks ago.

For five months, the company "negotiated" with the union refusing to grant a single demand. When the workers went out on strike for the first time in February demanding increased wages and shorter hours, the company promised to sign a union contract, if they went back to work. The men and women accepted this promise in good faith. On July 11, without notice or reason, 12 men and 3 women were fired, a number of them leaders of the union, all of them employees of many years standing. That was the last straw. Again the 800 workers went out on strike like one man.

This time it is union contract or bust! And the fourteen rabbis who perform the sacred rites on the kosher meat are on strike also!

"Rabbis have to live too," said the Irish, Spanish, German, Negro and Italian workers.

Andy Stankowics, shop steward, told the Daily Worker at strike headquarters yesterday, "Eight hundred men are not taking any verbal agreements anymore. We believed them once and they were lying in their teeth. We are not going back until those babies come to terms." Andy has worked with the company for five years.

TREMENDOUS PROFITS

Armours has been making fabulous profits on defense contracts. In 1939, it cleared $7,012,000 in 1940 —$8,307,00 and from the looks of things, it will hit the ten million mark in 1941. Yet workers suffering from occupational diseases received no compensation.

Workers' wives have their own story. Mrs. Lissette McGuire, who supervises the union kitchen serving more than 700 sandwiches and cups of coffee a day, said, "All the women want them to win. It will make conditions better for us at home. How can you pay the rent, the gas and electric, the food bills, the doctors bills and bring up a family on $27 a week. Many weeks, my husband doesn't even make that. I am absolutely sure that the men will win. They won't go back until they get the union contract even if it takes until Christmas."

Mrs. McGuire is proud of her kitchen in the rear of an empty store but prouder still of the meat that goes into the sandwiches.

"It's union meat, not scab flesh," she commented."

FINDS IT TOUGH

"Slim" Harvin, Negro worker, who has been employed with the company for 12 years finds it tough going trying to support a family of five children on his pay.

"Things are pretty bad at home. You can't make ends meet. But the union is going to win. It isn't a question of whether a man wants to go on strike, most times he just has to."

Describing working conditions in the plant, "Slim" stated, "Things haven't changed in there since 1800. The heat and smell is terrible. Men are driven around like galley slaves. You put in the best years of your life there and when you can't keep up with the speed, you're junked.

"We used to skin, clean and dress 450 lambs an hour. Now they have us running after the belt line trying to do 540 in the same time. That means we have to do 9 animals a minute, just think of it. When we're through, we're more dead than the animals."

Another worker interrupted "Slim's" story and asked him to tell this newspaper about the company store.

Meats at the company store cost 2 and 3 cents more a pound but many workers are forced to buy there since they run out of pay before the week is up and have to get credit to feed their families.

Louis Block, general manager of Local 640 and leader of the strike told the Daily Worker, "This time we are going to lick them. This is one time they have met their equals. With all their millions, they are not going to be able to break the strike. The men are 100 per cent for the union and have stated that they won't go back without a union contract till hell freezes over."

The union has appealed to the public to boycott Armour products and is prepared to bring out an additional 1,000 men in the 7 Armour branches throughout the city, unless the Company comes to terms.

The workers are determined to rid the industry of "Jungle" conditions once and for all.

351-1941

CIO

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'Union Will Strike for Negro Rights,' United Auto Workers Leader Says

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 1.—The CIO union in the Murray Body Corp., makers of airplanes, will strike if the company fails to live up to its contract in hiring and advancing Negro employes, Lloyd Jones, president of Local 2 of the United Automobile Workers of America, told the National Negro Congress here last week.

Coleman Young, executive secretary of the Michigan Division of the National Negro Congress, had been requested by John P. Davis, national secretary, to ascertain the number of Negroes in aircraft construction training in Detroit and particularly to investigate conditions at the Murray Corp. school and the new airplane plant, now nearing completion.

Commenting on the CIO official's assurances of support, if needed, Mr. Young said:

"Some time ago Attorney LeBron Simmons, president of the Detroit Council of the National Negro Congress, called upon Lloyd Jones about a situation at Murray Body's aircraft training school, to which Negroes were refused admission. Mr. Jones offered the support of his union to the Negro Congress in this fight for Negro jobs and job training. As a result of this collaboration between the Congress and the union, Negroes are now in the Murray aircraft body training school."

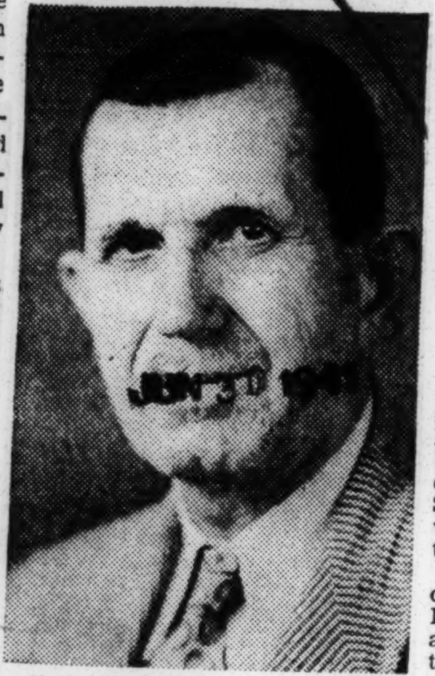
In his reply to Mr. Davis' request for facts on conditions of employment of Negroes in the Murray Body Corporation, Mr. Young wrote in part as follows:

"Board of education figures as of April 1-15, 1941, show that out of a total of 654 students in aircraft construction schools, 25 are Negro. Management at Murray Body say out of 35 students in Murray's aircraft construction school, three are Negroes; that six of 50 men now working in new aircraft plant are Negro. Officials assure that as hiring in new plant increases and production gets under way within four months, Negroes will be integrated without discrimination, as specified by union contract. Lloyd Jones, president of Murray local CIO, corroborates company's figures. Says union will strike if necessary to insure company lives up to agreement regarding Negroes."

JUN 2 1941

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Radicals Flayed



William Mitch, CIO chieftain, who charged Sunday that Communist activity has been endeavoring to work through meetings of the Alabama State Industrial Union Council (CIO).

MITCH CHARGES REDS ACTIVE IN STATE CIO UNIT

Resolutions Oppose New Dies Fund; Or Wage Law Weakening

Charge that Communist activity had been at work at former meetings of the council and was at work in the current meeting, was made Sunday afternoon by William Mitch, president of the Alabama State Industrial Union Council of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, at the closing session of the council's third annual constitutional convention at the Pickwick Club.

Charging there had never been a meeting of the council without Communist activity endeavoring to work through it, Mitch said he was not being fooled.

"I know some of the dirty, slimy work going on in this convention," he asserted.

The council president, also president of District 20, United Mine Workers of America, did not explain the nature of this work but he said there was less of it, compared to former meetings.

Resolutions Adopted

Resolutions opposing any further appropriations by Congress for the Dies Committee and prohibiting all members of the Communist Party, Nazi Bund and Ku Klux Klan from being seated as delegates or holding office in the council, were adopted Sunday by the delegates from the various CIO affiliates, comprising the council.

The resolution opposing further congressional appropriations for the Dies Committee, adopted Sunday afternoon at the closing session of the convention, charged the committee had "from time to time, given out lists of names of representatives of labor and others, whom they charge with subversive activities with evident aim to 'smear' the good name of said leaders of labor and if possible weaken their outstanding usefulness."

The resolution said in part that "we feel that government tax money can be used for a better purpose, such as feeding the unemployed and [illegible] and that the work the Dies Committee was supposed to do can better be done by a reliable, responsible branch of our government."

The resolution prohibiting members of the Communist Party, Nazi Bund and Ku Klux Klan from being seated as delegates at the third annual constitutional convention of the council, was adopted at the Sunday morning session. Introduced by John J. Schulter, business manager of the United Wholesale & Warehouse Employes Union, the resolution also urged that a similar resolution be introduced at the next national CIO convention.

AFL Is Assailed

Resolutions adopted Sunday afternoon, in addition to the one on the Dies Committee, included one assailing the American Federation of Labor. This resolution, in part,

JUN 30 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Armour's Affiliate Piles Up Big Profits on Low Pay, Soaring Prices

Housewives have been forced to pay from 10 to 20 per cent more for their meats than a year ago. Meat corporations have been fattening up on enormous profits. But the men and women working for the New York Butchers Dressed Meat Company, an Armour affiliate, continued to work in "Jungle" conditions for miserably low wages until Locals 640 and 334 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL, called 800 workers out of the huge meat plant at 39th St. and 11th Avenue two weeks ago.

For five months, the company "negotiated" with the union refusing to grant a single demand. When the workers went out on strike for the first time in February demanding increased wages and shorter hours, the company promised to sign a union contract, if they went back to work. The men and women accepted this promise in good faith. On July 11, without notice or reason, 12 men and 3 women were fired, a number of them leaders of the union, all of them employees of many years standing. That was the last straw. Again the 800 workers went out on strike like one man.

This time it is union contract or bust! And the fourteen rabbis who perform the sacred rites on the kosher meat are on strike also!

"Rabbis have to live too," said the Irish, Spanish, German, Negro and Italian workers.

Andy Stankowics, shop steward, told the Daily Worker at strike headquarters yesterday, "Eight hundred men are not taking any verbal agreements anymore. We believed them once and they were lying in their teeth. We are not going back until those babies come to terms." Andy has worked with the company for five years.

TREMENDOUS PROFITS

Armours has been making fabulous profits on defense contracts. In 1939, it cleared $7,012,000 in 1940—$8,307,00 and from the looks of things, it will hit the ten million mark in 1941. Yet workers suffering from occupational diseases received no compensation.

Workers' wives have their own story. Mrs. Lissette McGuire, who supervises the union kitchen serving more than 700 sandwiches and cups of coffee a day, said, "All the women want them to win. It will make conditions better for us at home. How can you pay the rent, the gas and electric, the food bills, the doctors bills and bring up a family on $27 a week. Many weeks, my husband doesn't even make that. I am absolutely sure that the men will win. They won't go back until they get the union contract even if it takes until Christmas."

Mrs. McGuire is proud of her kitchen in the rear of an empty store but prouder still of the meat that goes into the sandwiches.

"It's union meat, not scab flesh," she commented."

FINDS IT TOUGH

"Slim" Harvin, Negro worker, who has been employed with the company for 12 years finds it tough going trying to support a family of five children on his pay.

"Things are pretty bad at home. You can't make ends meet. But the union is going to win. It isn't a question of whether a man wants to go on strike, most times he just has to."

Describing working conditions in the plant, "Slim" stated, "Things haven't changed in there since 1800. The heat and smell is terrible. Men are driven around like galley slaves. You put in the best years of your life there and when you can't keep up with the speed, you're junked.

"We used to skin, clean and dress 450 lambs an hour. Now they have us running after the belt line trying to do 540 in the same time. That means we have to do 9 animals a minute, just think of it. When we're through, we're more dead than the animals."

Another worker interrupted "Slim's" story and asked him to tell this newspaper about the company store.

Meats at the company store cost 2 and 3 cents more a pound but many workers are forced to buy there since they run out of pay before the week is up and have to get credit to feed their families.

Louis Block, general manager of Local 640 and leader of the strike told the Daily Worker, "This time we are going to lick them. This is one time they have met their equals. With all their millions, they are not going to be able to break the strike. The men are 100 per cent for the union and have stated that they won't go back without a union contract till hell freezes over."

The union has appealed to the public to boycott Armour products and is prepared to bring out an additional 1,000 men in the 7 Armour branches throughout the city, unless the Company comes to terms.

The workers are determined to rid the industry of "Jungle" conditions once and for all.

JUL 27 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro CIO Brass Workers Pioneer In Unity of Black, White Workers

Bridgeport, Conn.
Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Our union, the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Local 320, CIO has won a significant victory for more than 4,000 workers employed at the Bridgeport Brass Company. One of the most important demands we won was the increase of ten cents an hour. Because of the rise in rents and the rapid increase in the cost of food and clothing, we sure need this money.

Brass Workers

In addition to this ten cents an hour increase, we also won such things as grievance procedure for settlement of all disputes, seniority rights, time and a half for Saturdays, double time for Sundays and holidays, one week's vacation with pay, and four weeks bonus for all workers who are drafted.

Without any question this contract compares favorably with the others gotten by the CIO locals in this area. How were we able to obtain a contract as good as this? The answer lies in the fact that we are building a strong local, and we are united. The center of our strength lies in the Negro and white unity we have achieved.

I am a Negro worker who has been employed in the brass shop for a long time. For many years I fought along with other Negroes and whites to build a union. I have been a member of our present local since its foundation. Now, with our union stronger than it has ever been and with hundreds of new workers joining our local after we demonstrated what we could do, our union must take up in a serious way a very fundamental question.

We must once and for all time fight to get rid of the Jim-Crow policies of job discrimination and segregation practiced by the Bridgeport Brass Company. With the exception of four or five of us, all Negroes are employed in the casting department. Some of us have been here practically 25 years and we're still on the same job. There is no chance for advancement. In addition, we Negroes are segregated in a separate locker and shower room.

Now is the time for our union to discuss seriously the education of our membership. We should take up with the company the question of the employment of Negroes in all departments and in all cases where they qualify for the job. Secondly, we must demand equal opportunity for advancement. A few years ago when the Bridgeport Brass co. refused to hire any more Negroes and for a period of six months did not hire a single one, our union took up the fight and compelled the company to change its policy so that in the casting department a Negro would be hired for every white worker hired.

It is true that we did raise this question in the past, but we did not push it enough. Now, we are stronger, the time is more opportune. Those who re-echo Jim-Crow propaganda and say Negroes and whites could never work together had better look a little more carefully. What better example of harmonious relations do we have than right here in the casting department where Negroes and whites have been working side by side, day after day, for over 25 years? Our own union is a living example of harmonious relations with Neroes and whites sharing leadership and on the union executive board.

Thousands of Negroes are trained for skilled jobs. The very fact that they are denied employment in the biggest shops in Bridgeport and in our country completely exposes the hypocritical talk that this is a war for democracy. So, just as our union set an example in the kind of a contract it negotiated, it should step out and give leadership in the fight against Jim-Crowism.

NEGRO BRASS WORKER.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

BISHOP SHAW MAKES PLEA FOR NEGRO LABOR

Lauds CIO Policy Before 10,000; Only Negro On Mammoth Program; Picture Appears In White Southern Daily Sitting With Whites

35½

By REV. D. E. MARTINEZ

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 6—What will perhaps be the most important events in the annals of Labor demonstration of strength and collective bargaining, racial equality in the internationally all-powerful CIO Union under the leadership of perhaps the most feared man in America, John L. Lewis, was written in the gigantic forest of Turner Town, and Jasper County, Dora, Ala., when 10,000 laborers, representing all the CIO Unions of the South's most industrial state, with around 5,000 members representing the city of Birmingham, alone, known as the (Magic City) more often referred to as the (Pittsburgh of the South) gathered after a colorful Labor Day Parade to hear high CIO officials and Bishop Benjamin Garland Shaw, D. D., resident Bishop of Birmingham, representing the largest area Conferences of the great A. M. E. Zion Church, comprising Western North Carolina, Georgia, South Georgia, Blue Ridge,N. C., Louisiana, West Tennessee and Mississippi. The Bishop with his dynamic personality small and plumb in statue like Paul of Tarsus in New Testament history, was the Lone Eagle speaker for Negro Labor, not only in the powerful CIO but in the nation's national Defense industries under the OPM.

Using the subject: "Equal Justice and Fair Play for Negroes In the Labor Unions," the Bishop placed emphasis on American Democracy, citizenship rights and fair play in collective bargaining for Negroes in all unions of the nation and in the Nation's vital national defense.

Lauds CIO Policies

Citing CIO policies in the various chapters of the Union, pointing to the fact that in many of the locals Negoes hold the executive chair, while others serve as officers in the various departments of the local and regional offices, "and it is commendable to note, the respect, cooperation and support these Negro officers get from their white CIO brothers of the South, and other sections of the country." With force which drew vociferous applause from the mammoth gathering, the Bishop continued, "America, will do well to pattern after the democracy, as practiced by the mighty CIO Organization." "There is no more loyal citizens in this country than the Negro, he has proven himself willing to shoulder every burden, participate in every emergency, vital in the preservation of the American way of life, whenever our Soverignty was in anyway threatened."

Cites Afro-American Background

To prove the American Negro rights to citizenship, free-speech and collective bargaining, the Bishop had this to say, "I am by backgorund from Africa, this makes me an Afro-American, so is the white man a European, this makes him a European-American, (loud laughter.) Therefore I have every right to live and enjoy all the freedom of citizenship rights in American Democracy, as anyone else. No! we don't have to go back to Africa! (Laughter, cheers whistles, etc.) We have every right to ownership of this land and country comprising the great American commonwealth of forty-eight states." Pictures were snapped by the Birmingham-Age-Herald, reputed to have the largest circulation of any white dailies in the entire South, with the Bishop seated on the platform, with white high CIO officials and the Master of Ceremonies before the microphone, The Birmingham News, Birmingham's most widely circulated Evening (white) Daily, also carried stirring accounts of the most spectacular Labor Day celebration in Southern history.

JUN 12 1941
SEP 8 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cayton on Labor

FUTURE LABOR STATUS OF FORD PLANT DEPENDS ON NEGRO LABORERS

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

NEGRO laborers are destinted to play an imporatnt and vital role in the titanic struggle which is going on between the Ford Empire and the United Automobile Workers-C.I.O. union. Until recently Negroes have played a very minor role in the political and economic structures of the country.

With sharp differences of groups, almost aqually balanced in strength, the Negro has recently come into his own and is appearing as a decisive factor that can, by throwing his weight on one side or the other, determine important issues. In the past Presidential election for example, the vote for President in the northern and border states such as New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Missouri was very close and a relatively small shift, such as the block voting of the Negro electorate might have changed the results of the entire election.

Mr. Cayton

Two of these staes were carried by Willkie (Michigan and Indiana). If he had carried the other six he would have received 52 more votes in the electoral college, or nearly enough to have defeated Roosevelt.

JAN 25 1941

DANGEROUS CAMPAIGN

STRIKING as was the possibility that Negro voters could have "elected" a President by block voting in certain states, the role and position of the Negro in the Ford plant puts him in a position to determine, to an extent, the future of labor under our "war" economy.

The campaign to gain recognition of the automobile union by Henry Ford is not an organizing campaign of the common garden variety but is one which holds great possibilities and dangers for all of organized labor. As a matter of fact, labor's unstinted cooperation (at least that of the C.I.O.), in the defense program may well depend upon the next move in what appears to be labor's present cause celebre.

FORD'S dispute with the leaders of organized labor is one of long standing. The present impasse arose out of the award by the War Department to the Ford Company of a contract for 1500 light reconnaisance cars to cost $1.387.000. in spite of that company's rabid anti-union policy.

The Ford Company had refused to cooperate with labor or the government throughout the N.R.A. period and at present is violating many labor laws. There are six National Labor Relations Board decisions against Ford and the United States Circuit court has upheld one of the major N.L.R.B. decisions.

JAN 25 1941

LABOR SUFFERS

WHEN appointed last summer, Sidney Hillman, Labor Division Chief of the National Defense Advisory Commission, protested against Army and Navy Defense contracts being let to any company that violated labor laws. At the end of August the commitee adopted a policy calling for full compliance with all labor laws on the assumption that conserving of labor's social gains would insure increased production for defense.

President Roosevelt further approved this policy to the Congress in a message and memorandum on September 18, 1940.

Later, however, the Attorney General and the Secretary of War, Knox, made a statement which intimated that violation of labor laws such as the Walsh-Healy Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the National Labor Relations Act, etc., would not necessarily prohibit a company from receiving defense contracts.

Other considerations, they intimated, such as speedy delivery, price, quality, and the affect of the impact of the contract on consumers would be given weight. These statements constituted a distinct set-back for labor, who had been fighting for a clear-cut policy for many months.

HILLMAN OVERRULED

AGAIN in November the Ford Company was awarded another contract; this time for $122,000,000. Last week the War Department announced that Mr. Hillman's protest against the granting of the original contract for reconnaissance cars had been over-ruled.

President Roosevelt, in spite of his initial stand and his recent radio address in which he stated he wished to maintain the social gains, has taken no action to discipline the War Department for its countenance of labor law violators. It seems likely that if negotiations between the parties fail, eventually it will be necessary for him to make some statement which will be more meaningful than the generalizations concerning labor's rights which his speeches have heretofore contained.

In the struggle, the Negro worker will play an important, and perhaps decisive role. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000 Negroes employed by the Ford Company. In a close election this group of "loyal" Negroes could very well swing the election either for or against the union.

FORD FAR-SIGHTED

FORD was farsighted in hiring Negroes when many other automobile manufacturers would not hire them at all, or employed them in very limited numbers. His contributions to organizations and individuals in the Negro community have given substance to the myth that Ford had a sympathetic interest in the problems of the Negro in this country.

Likewise, the fact that many Negro professional men and Negro leaders who lived on the backs of these Ford employees, fearful of anything which might disrupt (even momentarily) their sources of income, are violently pro-Ford and anti-union.

JAN 25 1941

Ford's policy toward Negroes, however, is one that had been born of self-interest and has not offered the Negro much except employment. That Ford has hired more Negroes than other companies is a matter of fact. He has done this, however, to provide himself with "strike insurance."

It is the testimony of most persons familiar with the Ford plant that Negroes are definitely limited in their ability to be promoted within the Ford plant and are pretty largely confined to the lower wage income brackets.

Likewise, all workers in the Ford plant including Negro workers, suffered from the speed up, the possibility of brutal treatment from Ford's service men, and enjoy a wage which is about ten cents an hour below that of workers in other automobile plants.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Negro Elected Head Of CIO Auto Union Local

JAN 4 1941

CLEVELAND, Ohio — (CNA)— The virility of CIO union democracy was proved again this week with the election of a Negro worker as president of the United Auto Workers Local 486, one of Cleveland's biggest and most militant local unions.

The new president is Joseph Jackson, who previously served as vice-president, and was elected to the presidency following the resignation of President Mack Cheek, white.

JAN 4 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

White Union Elects Race Man As Head

JAN 11 1941

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Joseph Jackson, former vice president of the local 486 of the United Auto Workers union, Midland Steel, has been made president of the organization.

In commenting on the election of Joe Jackson, Ted Cox, in a labor paper, said the fact is significant because Joe Jackson is a Negro. The election, he claimed, is just another evidence of the refusal of CIO to be kidded by fake propaganda and race prejudice, or to allow politicians and financial magnates to further their own ends by pitting the races against each othe...

Cox said: "Workers in the Midland Steel local of the United Auto Workers are 90 per cent white. They wanted the best leadership available in the shop. So, when President Mack Cheek resigned, they looked around. They didn't give a damn what color or what religious or political opinions that leadership might have. They wanted ability.

"It happened that Joe Jackson, who is colored, had that ability. So now Joe is president of one of the biggest, most militant and most successful local unions in the Cleveland CIO."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Unity of All Working People Strongly Urged

JAN 30 1941

LOS ANGELES,— (ANP)— From his offices in the CIO building, Johnson G. Orr, brilliant young editor of the Los Angeles Aircraft organizer, is lending great aid to the cause of the Negro in his fight against discrimination in defense work. Both in personal editorials and by the release of all news and comments in favor of fairness towards the group, Orr fearlessly has lined up on the side of the colored worker.

In last week's issue he published a full column of reprints from an article from a pamphlet issued by the National Congress Branch here, entitled "Jim Crow in National Defense."

Said Orr, "the pamphlet presents the sordid story of discrimination in the aircraft industry and the reasons for it." He concludes the long article with "the Weapon that can remove the Jim Crowism is the unity of all the people Negro and white to work with the trade unions and progressive organizations. Fighting together they can end discrimination."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

C. I. O. Calls Sacrifice Plea 'Slave Doctrine'

Katz Demands Pay Rise Proportionate With Gain in Profits

The doctrine of sacrifice in the national emergency will be accepted by labor only after workers' wages are permitted to increase proportionately with profits of employers, a C. I. O. spokesman asserted here yesterday.

"The doctrine of sacrifice when preached at labor today is a vicious slave doctrine . . ." Sidney R. Katz, secretary-treasurer, Maryland and District of Columbia Industrial Union Council (C. I. O.) told the Council of Social Agencies at the January meeting, in the Y. W. C. A.

Robert J. Watts, international representative of the A. F. of L., told the same audience "that our first task today is to participate to the maximum of our capacity in bringing about the overthrow of the slave masters of central Europe."

JAN 14 1941

Defense "Urgent Program"

"May I say with conviction that I regard the national defense as being today by far the greatest and most urgent social welfare program we could possibly devote ourselves," to which Watts said.

There is no real danger of Fascism or Naziism here "if we can help accomplish the defeat and destruction of the main generating plants abroad," Watts continued. "Most of our active Fifth Columnists would either lose their enthusiasm as soon as the pay checks from headquarters stop or would fizzle out as soon as the source of their ideas was cut off," he said.

Katz said: "Organized business insisted for months that it would not accept any defense contracts unless it received what it said was to be its fair profits. This holdup of defense orders, this strike if you will, was never denounced by people in high places and in fact was cooperated with by the very persons who denounced labor for asking 5 cents per hour more.

"The doctrine of sacrifice when preached at labor today is a vicious slave doctrine and has been very well expressed by a recent editorial in a Baltimore paper which said that the purpose of labor in this emergency is merely to see that defense activities proceed smoothly. That is the purpose of peons, not of free men," Katz said.

To Safeguard Standards

Labor, he said, will continue to safeguard American democracy by protecting its living standards and fighting against antidemocratic tendencies at home. Hitlerism by any other name smells just the same whether you call it a loan-lease plan giving dictatorship powers to one man, who is called Roosevelt, or whether you give it to somebody else with a different name, Katz asserted.

Miss Margaret Buffum, president, District of Columbia Woman's Trade Union League, said her organization was working on a bill to obtain some manner of minimum hours for domestic employes, who are the largest worker group here outside of the Federal service. Mrs. Harry S Bernton, president of the council presided.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Strike Threat Wins Jobs For Negroes in 2 Firms

FEB 28 1941

Other Workers in Local 65 Go to Bat to See That Work Is Given to Negroes Under Terms Of CIO Union Contract

Two employers under contract with Local 65, United Wholesale and Warehouse Employes, CIO, who tried the old tricks of refusing to hire Negroes, changed their minds when their workers were on the verge of walking out to enforce equal rights.

In revealing this story the union's officials again stressed that Local 64 will give no quarter to those who seek to victimize its Negro members.

FEB 28 1941

The first case involved the Globe Sales Co., 622 Broadway, a firm which has a large amount of government business. Requesting a worker in accordance with the contract providing hiring through the union, Edna Glasgow, Negro girl next on the hiring list was sent.

Aaron Leitman, the firm's supervisor was "sure" the 200 employes of the shop wouldn't work with a Negro, and refused to hire her. He put the matter to Dominick Mancuso, the union's steward, who promptly put it to the workers. The general chorus was that they certainly would work with a Negro, and when Mr. Leitman still held to his aryan theories, the workers informed him that they are ready to strike to force employment of Edna Glasgow. That is when Mr. Leitman changed his mind. Miss Glasgow is working in the shop and everything is on as usual at Globe Sales Co.

Local 65 came to another showdown on the issue with the Synthetic Plastics Co., 461 Eighth Ave. A request for a worker was filled, and next on the list was a Negro. The employer, after an interview, said the man wouldn't qualify, but told the shop steward very emphatically that he is not against Negroes.

FEB 28 1941

White workers on the union's hiring list gave up their next in deference to a Negro this time, and one after another Local 65 sent five Negroes to fill the Synthetic Plastic vacancy, and one after another they were "disqualified."

The sixth man was James Pickett. There the union called a halt. The shop steward Gertrude Weiner told the employer that the whole shop was upset about his antics and was ready to walk out.

Pickett is on the job and Synthetic Plastics is still in business.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE C. I. O. VICTORY AT FORD'S

By an overwhelming majority the United Automobile Workers Union of the C. I. O. has won the right to represent the workers at the Ford Automobile Company's plant in Detroit, thus ending a bitter four-year struggle.

From the beginning this newspaper urged the Negro workers to join with their white comrades and present a united front for industrial democracy, and our position has been justified by events.

MAY 31 1941

Had the Negro workers in the Ford plant held aloof from the C. I. O. auto workers union their position would now be unenviable, and those Negro leaders in Detroit who urged them not to join the union would have reason to be greatly concerned about the future.

As it is, a great victory has not only been won for collective bargaining but also for race relations.

When men of different racial groups fight side by side for a common and important objective, an understanding and camaraderie is established which is felt in every walk of life.

MAY 31 1941

With organized labor growing more powerful in this country daily, it would be extremely foolish for Negro labor to stand aside and ignore the plain handwriting on the wall.

351-1941 C.I.O.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

THOUSANDS OF NEGRO WORKERS AFFECTED BY SHUTDOWN IN COAL MINES; STEEL INDUSTRY FACES CLOSING DURING WEEK

NOV 22 1941

John L. Lewis, President of United Mine Workers Refuses To Yield to President's Desire to Continue Mediations; Entire Defense Program Hampered.

351

GARY, ~~W. Va.~~—(Special)--Two Negroes. William Hairston and William Lawson, employes of the United States Coal and Coke Company, were seriously wounded here Tuesday as disorder broke out at the No. 10 mine of the plant following a decision of the ~~United Mine Workers,~~ C. I. O. to stage a walkout.

Both Hairston and Lawson were injured during a volley of about 15 or 20 shots fired by U. M. W. pickets who attempted to keep the 163 workers out of a normal force of about 220 from going to wokr in the mine.

Other minor disorders were staged at various mines employing United Mine Worker members but the shooting of Hairston and Lawson were the only two serious cases of injury reported.

WASHINGTON, D. C—(Special)—Fifty- three thousand soft coal miners working in coal mines throughout the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee and Illinois, which supply the fuel for the vast steel industry so vital to the national defense program, were staging wholesale strikes this week and completely tieing up the production of steel except in a few minor cases where steel companies had been able to get an increase supply of fuel on hand before the staging of the strike.

Headed by John L. Lewis, CIO chieftain, the mine workers staged the walkout after the National Mediation Board voted 9-2 against granting the workers a union shop or ''closed-shop'' contract with the steel plans, owners of the captive mines.

NOV 22 1941

Although the workers had gone back on their jobs following an argeement 10 days ago that they would work until definite decision of the board had been reached the strike this week gave evidence that they were not for carrying on further mediations and that pressure was to be brought to bear on the owners of the mines.

President Roosevelt had repeatedly said that the coal mines must be kept open but until late this week he had done nothing towards sending the miners back to their jobs.

It has been boasted by the CIO union that they have over 95 percent of the workers in the captive coal mines and that any definance on the part of the other workers would only constitute a minimum opinion and that the mines could not be worked with the few employes that would be left in them to mine the coal.

John L. Lewis has been most definant in his attitude towards the defense program and in his speech of Tuesday openly declared that the ''soldiers were not going to shoot the men and that the soldiers were also not going to mine the coal.''

Lewis' attitude has caused considerable comment on Capitol Hill with Senator W. Lee O'Daniel and Senator Tom Connally of Texas leading the fight to get anti-strike legislation passed in order to quell the current strike wave throughout the nation.

Although the president has not given his approval or voiced any opinion of anti-strike legislation it has been hinted that Congress probably would step beyond tht administration power and pass the legislation at any cost.

Other observers on Capitol Hill say that the president is most likely to call out the army in attempt to keep the mines open.

Senator Tom Connally was pointed out by Lewis for rebuke when he stated that Connally certainly could not tell him anything as long as he came from a state that used the poll tax law to keep thousands of citizens from voting.

Another commenator hinted at a political angle in the coal strike when he quoted CIO workers as feeling that Roosevelt was walking out on them for during his campaign they donated $500,000 to be used towards his reelection. It was hinted that this may be the reason the president is taking so long before making a decision in the coal mine strike.

It was outlined that a general sympathy strike of any duration in the commerical mines would affect not only many fields of manufacturing but railroad operation as well. The commericals employ approximately 330,000 miners, as compared with the captives' 54,000 and all are United Mine Worker members, for the CIO contract with the commericals provides for a union shop, the cause for the strikes in the captive mines.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Miners End Strike, Talk for the Afro

(Exclusive Mine Pictures on Page 24)
(Additional Strike Story on Page 24)

NOV 29 1941

IN A NUTSHELL

357

46,000 of 100,000 CIO Striking Miners Are Colored.

They Went Back for John L. Lewis, not for President Roosevelt.

Of 53,000 "Captive" Coal Miners, 15,000 are Colored.

NOV 29 1941

Miners' Pay, $7 a Day, 7 - Hour Day, 5 - Day Week.

Men Go Back to Work, but There Is No Rejoicing.

By OLLIE STEWART
(Staff Correspondent)

LIBRARY, Pa. — Something like 15,000 colored captive miners and 25,000 colored commercial miners picked up lunch pails and head lamps and trudged back to work Monday — along with 100,000 whites — all over Western Pennsylvania and Southern West Virginia, but there was a noticeable lack of rejoicing.

They went back into the pits because John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers' chief, told them to, and because they believe that Lewis will get for them what they want — a closed union shop in the captive coal mines. No other man in the country — "not even the President" — could have got them back to work so soon.

Fight Isn't Over

And the fight isn't over. There is every indication that the strike may be called all over again if the mediation board, appointed by President Roosevelt, rules against a closed union in the captive mines. And there is an even more serious threat of trouble if the commercial mine owners insist upon fining the commercial miners, who walked out in sympathy, $1 for each day they were idle.

NOV 29 1941

"If they try to make us pay a fine," said Charles Patterson, who hauls slate at the Montour No. 10 mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, "we may strike again."

Fifteen Years a Miner

Patterson has been in the mines for fifteen years, and was in the thick of the fight that resulted in a union shop in the commercial mines. His nephew, Bert Lancaster, who has lived with him since childhood, is also a miner.

Under the Appalachian Agreement, miners are subject to a $1 a day fine if they take part in an unauthorized strike. In this instance, they are subject to $500,000 in fines for last week's sympathy walkout, and lost $4,200,000 in wages. But most of them feel that helping the captive miners by striking in sympathy was and is worth whatever it costs.

Companies May Force Fines

(Incidentally, when a coal company forces an illegal lockout, it must pay each miner $2 a day for every day he is idle. With this in mind, the coal companies have already stated that they will insist upon commercial miners paying their $1 a day fine.)

The most definite conviction you get around here talking to the men who risk their lives in the coal pits is that no matter what happens, John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers will protect them. These men believe in their union 100 per cent, and they're loyal.

Taking No Chances

Ed Logan, who drives mules in the mine, and has worked down under the earth's surface for 21 years, expressed the opinion of most of his fellow workers when he said:

NOV 29 1941

"I've got a wife and five children, and I need to keep working — but if my committee calls a strike for any reason, I figure they know what they're doing, so I come out and stay out. I'm not taking any chances on getting shot—or even shot at."

Men Work Together

Jeff Blakely loads coal on a conveyor. He makes good money, has a nice car, and lives in a company house which is well furnished. Says Jeff:

"A man is a man in the mines. White and colored work together

We got no kick with the union; it's done a lot to help us — and we ought to stick by it."

Leave Me Something

There was no disorder in the Pittsburgh area as the men went back to work. The children were calling to fathers and brothers to "leave me something in your lunch box, daddy," as the men left the rows of identical houses and walked down the hill to the mine entrances.

In Uniontown and other Fayette County mine centers all was quiet over Sunday and when the early morning shift went to work Monday morning. At three o'clock in the afternoon there was a change of shifts and the men emerged with black faces, colored and white, to blink in the cold windy light of day. They exchanged a quick greeting with the men who were waiting to take their places and hurried away home for a bath and a glass of ale or beer.

NOV 29 1941

Don't Talk Easily

They don't talk easily to strangers. They're suspicious of anybody who obviously isn't a miner. But once they're satisfied you're okey, they can't do enough for you.

All the mine locals had meetings on Sunday, but few men attended. They just stayed home and rested or went rabbit hunting in the nearby woods. They had received word to return to work. They didn't want to know anything else.

I asked one man what he would do if soldiers were sent in to take over a mine in case of a strike.

If Soldiers Came

"Hell," he said and shrugged, "I'd go home and sit on my porch and watch 'em parade. There wouldn't be no fights — and then again there'd be damn little coal dug, mister."

How about scabs?

"They wouldn't stay long. If they didn't have an accident on the way to the mine, a lot of them would kill themselves in the mines. It takes years to make a miner. A new man has to put up two years of apprenticeship before he can be a full-fledged miner — but you're still learning after twenty years!"

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

JOHN L. LEWIS

HAS STRENGTHENED HAND IN CIO, WHERE DOES NEGRO STAND ON ISSUE?

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

NOV 22 1941

THE CIO convention opens in Detroit this week and your guess is as good as mine as to what is going to happen. Certainly what has happened in the past few weeks has changed the picture. Negro CIO delegates and members will have to re-orientate themselves in view of the shifts of the various factions and groups in the Congress.

Mr. Cayton

A few weeks ago, as this column noted, it looked pretty much as if Lewis had gotten himself out on a limb and the convention was going to chop it off. He had lost an enormous amount of prestige by supporting Willkie, continuing to oppose the President and refusing to accept the administrations foreign policy. But the old Fox, just before the convention, has pulled a rabbit out of the hat which again puts him in the forefront, enhancing his prestige throughout the entire labor movement and unifies behind his program, to an extent, the several warring factors of the CIO. By championing the cause of the union shop he has raised an issue which all of the CIO, except the Communist and the Hillman crowd, are probably prepared to back him in.

MINERS DESERVE CLOSED SHOP

NOV 2

Concerning the virtue of the miners' case I am of the opinion that certainly they have the right to ask for a union shop and a national agreement for miners in view of the preceednt which was set by the master contract forced on the Bethlehem Steel workers in the San Francisco shipyard dispute. In this case, it is the opinion of several commentators and the minority opinion of the National Defense Mediation Board, that the Board set a precedent which it is now violating. Many, and the writer is inclined to agree, believe that the decision of the National Defense Mediation Board was more political than a decision based solely upon the merit of the case.

EVEN THOUGH the case has virtue, there is the question as to whether it is advisable for Lewis to press for the unionship at this time. On that point I must admit that I am not sure whether he is right or wrong. Certainly the Administration seems willing to go to bat with its hated enemy and there is evidence that the industrialists are putting the screws on the administration to step on the Lewis crowd and finish them up for good. Congress is likewise in a mood to pass some pretty severe anti-strike measures if the thing comes to a head. Lewis, by calling a strike may find himself opposed by the Administration, especially the President, the more conciliatory faction of labor, Congress and in the final analysis the United States Army. This thing can mean virtual civil war and the destruction of, or at least a severe set back to, the entire labor movement.

NOV 22 1941

LEWIS ADDS TO PRESTIGE

At the CIO convention, whether Lewis decides to strike his miners or not, he will come before that body as the champion of the union shop, which is absolutely necessary if the gains which have been made in steel, automobiles, and the mines are to be preserved. It is my guess that he will walk out of the convention again as the most important figure, if not the head of the CIO. Any repressive action which might be taken against him by government will only strengthen his leadership and widen the group within the Congress who are willing to support him.

WHAT ABOUT the Negro? Just where will he be, and should he stand on this issue. Lewis has powerful Negro friends in the Congress. Even when he was hiring sluggers to enforce his iron rule over the industry in the early rough and tumble days, he was always consistent on the race question. Most of the Negro miners will lineup behind him solidly. In addition, there are a lot of Negroes who have more or less recently arisen to positions of importance in the CIO largely because of Lewis' support. Chief among these is Henry Johnson, formerly of the Packing House Workers' Industrial Union and at present on the payroll of the United Mine Workers. Johnson is a strong Lewis man and is closer to him than many persons suspect. In addition, Lewis, familiar with the byways of union politics, has been systematically displacing the left wing boys who disagree with his foreign policy wherever they could be dislodged.

NOV 22 1941

NEGROES HAVE STAKE

I can't tell you how it's going to come out and neither can any other person (although Lewis' guess at this point might be pretty accurate). I do know that, however it does come out, it wil vitally effect thousands of Negro and white workers and greatly influence the entire labor movemant of this country. This convention is just about as important to us as was the last Presidential election.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

A West Coast Union Rejects an Invitation to Take Part in a 'Defense Training Program' and Tells Why

MAR 6 - 1941

Los Angeles, Cal

Workers Correspondencet Dept.:

Electrical

The exective board of my local, Local 1421 of the CIO United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America, just outlined its position in regard to the national industrial defense training program here in Los Angeles.

This program centers around training young men for the aircraft industry, and includes eight machine shop training centers in addition to other classes. Our union was invited to send representatives to the Machine Shop Advisory Committee set up under the program. Our representatives attended the first meeting on a temporary basis and found that the committee was dominated by employers representatives such as McNerney, General Superintendent of Consolidated Steel and Andrews, Personnel Manager of Emsco Derrick and Equipment Company. McNerney, ably seconded by the representative of lodge 311 of the International Association of Machinists (A. F. of L.) spent most of his time emphasizing the so - called emergency and trying to sell the representatives of our union on the necessity of aiding the "national defense" program through membership on this committee.

JIM-CROW POLICY

Our representatives discovered, in cooperation with the Los Angeles committee of the California Youth Legislature, that of 2030 trainees in the whole local program only six were Negroes, twenty-one Mexican, and five Chinese or Japanese. We also found that the machine shop classes were being more and more restricted to exclude all previously untrained youth. As Mr. Vestey, coordinator of the program put it, "The objective of this training is to meet needs of defense production, rather than the needs of individual young people."

As the result of this experience the following letter to Mr. J. Douglas Wilson, Assistance Supervisor of National Defense Training was sent by our local executive board:

"Dear Mr. Wilson:

"Our executive board has considered the advisability of further participation in the Machine Shop Advisory Committee for National Defense Training and has decided that it will be impossible for us to participate unless some drastic changes are made in the character of the training program.

"First, we cannot participate in a program in which discrimination against Negroes and minority groups is so flagrant. We feel that this discrimination is not excused to the slightest degree by the two reasons advanced for it, namely, refusal of employers to hire members of these groups, and emphasis by Washington on employability rather than real training.

"We emphatically feel that in any program for genuine defense of our country, the emphasis must be placed on training the broadest mass of unskilled workers, in order that they may secure employment, since a defense training program which does not have as one of its main objectives solving the unemployment problem, is a hollow mockery and is no defense at all. The appropriations Act (which authorizes the program) specifically states that there shall be no discrimination for race, sex, or color. If this is complied with, the CIO will see to it that such employers as it has under contract are forced to hire these workers without discrimination.

NO GUARANTEES

"Second, we cannot participate in any program which does not give concrete guarantees that trainees shall not be used to lower labor standards. All trainees after placement in industry must be compensated at prevailing union wages and so far there is not the slightest assurance that this will be carried out.

"Third, in the curriculum there must be provision for classes on the rights of labor under existing labor legslation, such as the Wagner Act, Wages and Hours Act, etc., since one of the most important phases of genuine defense of our democracy, is the education of our citizens in their democratic rights.

"Fourth, there must be much more emphasis put on the training of unskilled workers, since the past decade of economic crisis has denied employment to many, and at the present time many of our young people have had no previous training whatsoever. A program which denies the opportunity of securing training to these millions of unskilled workers is extremely shortsighted, and is in reality harmful to the best interests of our country and hence to national defense. The classes are not limited by law to twelve weeks, and a certain number of classes must be set up which will last for a longer period and which will provide training for unskilled workers. As a further step in this direction, NYA workers should be admitted to these classes with pay on the same basis as WPA workers.

WANT UNION INSTRUCTORS

"Fifth, unions must be given the right, as much as any other group, to recommend men to be taken into the training program, and union men who qualify must be taken on as instructors.

"Sixth, in placing men after graduation instructors and the California State Employment Service must place them according to seniority of graduation, without discrimination. Since the cost of tools for machinists is prohibitive to most workers, provision for loans from the government and employers, to be paid back out of wages after placement, must be made.

"Seventh, students in classes must be allowed to elect student councils which shall have the right to discuss policies of classes, and the welfare of trainees.

"Lastly, we have grave doubts as to whether the training program is really being used for national defense, or whether it is being used to assist the administration's mad drive to war under the so-called 'All out aid to Britain' policy, and while our union and the CIO as a whole stand second to no one in the defense of our country, we will not be a party to 'ploughing under every fourth American boy.' We refuse to assist in any way the administration's efforts to take us into the imperialistic bloodbath overseas.

"Therefore, until we see evidence of the committee's sincerity in carrying out the program outlined above and the committee's desire to make the training program a real program for national defense instead of a program to further America's preparations for imperialist war, we can have no connection with it."

W. B. P.
Field Organizer.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Union Urged to Fight Ship Firm's Bias

OCT 1 1941

PHILADELPHIA

Stating their dissatisfaction with conditions under which they are working at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, colored members of the Marine and Shipbuilders' Union (CIO) Local No. 1, filed a resolution with the union last week calling for an immediate adjustment.

Outlining eight grievances, the resolution, addressed to Thomas Gallaher, executive secretary, laid the issue squarely on the shoulders of the union, asking first for a meeting with the official and then proper steps to rectify the company's alleged discriminatory policy.

Follows NNC Blast

Points stressed in the resolution were substantially the same as those charged against the company last week by the Philadelphia-Camden Council of the National Negro Congress, which has been fighting for better opportunities and employment of colored workers at the shipyard.

In its charges, the council said that the plant hired only 139 colored workers out of a total of over 15,000 employees, and that it had reports that qualifications for skilled or semi-skilled jobs were not even considered.

8 Grievances Cited

The resolution asked the following:

(1) That consideration be given seniority rights of colored workers who have been denied these rights; (2) That promotions be given colored employees; (3) Wage increases to be granted on the same basis as other employees; (4) That the union help to get colored workers placed in skilled jobs at the shipyard;

(5) That the union have the company immediately discontinue the practice of classifying all colored applicants as laborers when such applicants are qualified to perform skilled and semi-skilled jobs; (6) Admission of colored workers to the company's training schools; (7) Lowering of racial barriers and hiring of more colored workers; (8) Proper reclassification of lumberyard No. 14.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Vote Won Poll At Bethlehem for CIO

SWOC Director at Sparrow Point Steel Mills Hails Support in NLRB Victory; Pledges Firm Unity

OCT 8 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—Negro workers at the Sparrows Point plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co. last week turned the NLRB election in favor of the CIO. Nicholas Fontecchio, Steel Workers Organizing Committee director of organization among the plants workers, declared yesterday. He said that if the 6,000 Negroes participating in the election had voted for the so called Independent Steel Workers Association of Sparrows Point, as many attempts were made to have them do, the CIO would have been defeated. The plant employs 6.500 Negroes among its 20,000 workers.

Fontecchio said that the CIO "appreciated" the Negro workers' support and in a public statement declared that the white and the Negro workers would all struggle fo the common good of all along the common policy of the CIO, which frowns on all race, creed or color discrimination."

OCT 8 1941

The election involved workers at the steel fabricating plant only. Those employed in the shipyard division will vote in a similar election early this week. Of the 6.000 workers in this division, approximately 500 are said to be Negroes.

With the victory last week, Mr. Fontecchio said, the union **"will take steps immediately toward the increase of wages, the bettering of working conditions and the insuring that all workers will be treated fairly in all respects."**

John P. Davis, Executive Secretary ofthe National Negro Congress, was among several speakers who addressed the workers in mass meeting prior to the election.

OCT 8 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ALVIN RUCKER HERE TO STUDY LABOR SUPPLY

Seeks Information On Workers Available For Defense Work

SEP 27 1941

H. L. McCarthy, regional director, Social Security board, announced this week the assignment to Region 6 of Alvin M. Rucker, associate special representative, Bureau of Employment Security, Social Security Board, Federal Security Agency.

SEP 27 1941

Rucker is now engaged in a special survey to determine the specific availability of skilled and nonskilled defense workers in minority groups now available for employment in defense industr es Primarily, Rucker will devote most of his time to investigating and determining the status quo ot Negroes with respect to their defense skills and to possible openings in defense industries.

Rucker will work under the supervision of Fugene J. Brock, regional labor supply officer, OPM, and acting chairman of the Regional Labor Supply committee for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LABOR NEEDS LEADER

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CIO NEGRO MEMBERS TO CHOOSE OUTSTANDING LEADER

OCT 1 8 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

WHERE is the leadership for the 200,000 to 250,000 Negro CIO workers to come from?

I don't mean that these workers need a new union—the CIO is the best organization for Negro workers that this country has ever seen. But Negroes do have problems both within and outside of the union which are peculiar to them alone—which arise out of the fact that they are Negroes in predominantly white America.

Mr. Cayton

Like the early immigrants to this country—the Italians, the Germans, and the Jews—and like other disadvantaged groups such as women, they need a supplementary organization to deal with their unique problems. The Italians had the Italian Congress of Labor, the Jews had the United Hebrew Trades, and the women had the Woman's Trade Union League. In each case, the organization supplemented the regular trade union organization and dealt with the particular problems of the minority group involved. But what about the Negro workers? Certainly, they have problems which are urgent and cannot be satisfactorily handled by the trade union alone. How are they to be organized and where are they to get their leadership.

N.A.A.C.P. MUFFED OCT 1 8 1941

NOT from the N.A.A.C.P., for they muffed or haven't had imagination or nerve enough to see the problem and do something about it. At the recent conference of the association, they missed a chance to take leadership in the labor movement. Perhaps it was a good thing.

But what about the National Negro Congress. Well, the Congress has been in the field since 1936 and its results have not been very encouraging. During certain periods, especially during the organization of Steel, they did good work but as far as I can observe, they are pretty much a paper organization.

Then, there is, of course, the March-to-Washington group and Mr. Randolph. Two or three things stand in the way of Randolph becoming an effective leader for the CIO crowd. The porters are a pretty respectable crowd now and seem to me to be a little removed both psychologically or ideologically from the mass production boys. It struck me as queer that Randolph did not attempt to get all of the powerful CIO groups behind him in his March-On-Washington movement. The split between the CIO and the A.F. of L. will make it pretty impossible for Randolph to give effective leadership to that crowd.

FORD SITUATION AN EXAMPLE

IT IS evident that some sort of organization and some sort of leadership is necessary. Take, for example, the current situation in Ford. Thousands of Negro Ford workers are facing the possibility of being laid off of civilian production and not being trained or hired for defense production. Questions of seniority and promotions are coming up in the Steel Workers Organizing Committee and other CIO affiliates. The Negro members of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee need support to avoid being displaced by the government's agreements with the A. F. of L. Building Council.

More pressing now is the time for the Negro workers in the CIO to have a pre-convention conference to formulate the resolutions and demands which they wish to place before the CIO convention in November. Now is the time for every Negro worker and all groups of Negro workers in the CIO to fight to consolidate the gains which were handed them on a silver platter when these international unions were breaking their neck to get them away from the A. F. of L. and the company unions. If they don't do it now they will find that they have missed the bus.

SO who is to bring together the 50,000 Negroes in the United Automobile Workers Unions, the 50,000 Negroes in the United Mine Workers, the 15,000 in the Packing House Workers Industrial Union and all of the others? Who is to assist them to formulate their problems, articulate their difficulties and develop a program of action?

BRAINS IN LABOR

WELL, I think I've got he answer to all of these rhetorical questions—these very CIO workers themselves. Why couldn't the Negro leaders in these various organizations get together in a conference to talk over their problems and make plans for further action. There is as much brains, ingenuity, and insight to be found in the labor movement as there is anywhere else in the country. They don't need "big wig" Negroes to plan for them—to call them together—to try to formulate problems which they really don't understand. Why can't this new generation of able, capable, and resourceful Negroes work out their own plans? Why can't these men get together (if they don't know each other, they can clear their letters through me) and at least meet and plan something before the convention. If these men would organize they would be the most potent political and economic group in the Negro community. The trouble is they don't even imagine the extent of the power which their numbers and solidarity give them.

OCT 1 8 1941

FURTHER, I would like to tell these men that they will be represented if they do not have the foresight to represent themselves. At the present time, they are represented by leaders of national organizations who are far removed from them and their problems; by appointed government officials who receive their appointment not because of labor backing and are in no way responsible to labor. They will be represented either way but I hope that they can become unified and get together so that they themselves and their appointed leaders can represent themselves.

35i-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Lawyers Guild Raps Attack On Bridges

FEB 24 1941

Condemns All Measures Against Labor and the Negro People

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. — The national executive board of the National Lawyers Guild today condemned the action of the Department of Justice in reopening deportation proceedings against Harry Bridges as an instance of "discriminatory actions on the part of law-enforcement officials directed against specific labor leaders."

At the same time the Lawyers Guild expressed sharp opposition to the drive against civil liberties and against the rights of labor and urged "an unswerving policy of non-discrimination against the Negro people in every walk of public life."

In a statement of policy, the Guild's executive board said:

"We oppose all attempts to curtail labor's rights to organize and to strike or to impose upon labor any form of compulsory mediation or arbitration.

"We oppose pending legislation to legalize wire tapping and the so-called 'model' bills recently introduced in several state legislatures, which, under the guise of national defense against sabotage, might provide an effective instrument for interference with free speech and labor's rights.

"We urge the inauguration of an unswerving policy of non-discrimination against the Negro people in every phase of public life. It is of the utmost importance that all manifestatitions of Jim-Crowism be elinimanted from the War and Navy Departments."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Negro City Official Backs Spain Vet's Right to Job

MAR 14 1941

Civil Service Commissioner Morton Assails Attempt to Oust Vet; Appeals Court Upholds Contempt Charge on Kern

MAR 14 1941

By Harry Raymond

An attempt of the Al Smith Jr. Councilmanic Committee to disqualify a social investigator of the Welfare Department because he served 16 months at the front in Spain fighting fascism backfired yesterday when Civil Service Commissioner Ferdinand Q. Morton, a Negro, told the committee that the veteran's service in the cause of Spanish Democracy showed he was of the "highest moral standard."

The veteran is Russell M. Stephens, of 213 W. 66th St., whom the committee charged had been qualified by the Civil Service Commission to return to the welfare job he held prior to the Spanish War "after he had violated Federal passport laws."

MAR 14 1941

Stephens denied on the stand he had violated any passport laws, stating he used his passport to travel in France but not to enter or leave Spain.

Paul J. Kern, president of the Civil Service Commission, in a statement issued later said the passport charge did not disqualify Stephens because Attorney General Robert Jackson had nolle prossed all Spanish veterans' passport charges in a public statement, Feb. 16, 1940.

ASSAILS BIGOTRY

"It should be stated in the first place," said Kern, "that this Committee does not approach the case of these veterans with the bigotry and prejudice privately expressed by certain members of the Council Committee. Foreign volunteers are not to be looked upon as social offenders per se any more than the Marquis de Lafayette offended good morals by aiding the Colonies in their revolution."

MAR 14 1941

Kern pointed out that there were now a number of American volunteers in the British Army who are not being assailed by the Smith Committee. He added:

"Certainly those who chose to fight Messrs. Hitler and Mussolini in Spain in 1937 are no more to be inpugned than those who fight the same forces in 1941 in Albania, North Africa and the British Isles."

Stephens, it was brought out at the hearing, was appointed as investigator for the Emergency Relief Bureau in 1935. On July 24, 1937, he resigned from the Department of Welfare, went to France and later to Spain.

Stephens' passport was marked invalid for travel in Spain, but Stephens testified he did not use the passport to enter or travel in Spain, where he served in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

FULLY QUALIFIED

He returned to New York in December, 1938, and re-applied for a job in the Welfare Department. He had taken a written examination before resigning. He then took an oral test. The Civil Service Commission marked him "qualified" and he went to work in the department.

MAR 14 1941

The Smith Committee, through Assistant Counsel Jonas Ellis, attempted to show he was disqualified by producing a letter from Stephens' former wife asserting Stephens was "a Communist."

Ellis also contended Stephens was appointed in violation of the Lyons Residence Law, contending Stephens had disestablished his New York residence by going to Europe.

This was characterized as "absurd and grotesque" by the Civil Service Commission.

Ellis said two or three more cases of Spanish War veterans would be challenged.

Commissioner Morton, who was a witness during the afternoon session, firmly defended the Lincoln Brigade vets now in the civil service.

"Here we have men who offered their lives for a cause we believe just," the Negro Commissioner told the councilmen. "If there is any evidence of high moral standard greater than that I do not know where it is. They are not men of questionable character."

Stephens returned to the stand later and declared he had been approached by reporters of the Hearst newspapers, who asked him to co-operate with the committee to smear certain people.

"I refused," he declared.

At another point he said:

"It looks as though you disapprove of what I did to stop fascism."

APPEALS COURT HOLDS KERN IN CONTEMPT

ALBANY, March 13 (UP).—The Court of Appeals today affirmed lower court decisions holding New York City Civil Service Commission President Paul J. Kern in contempt for refusing to testify before a one-man city council sub-committee.

MAR 14 1941

The court decision—by a vote of 6 to 1—will require Kern to testify before the sub-committee investigating operations of the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Chief Judge Irving Lehman dissented from the majority vote on the ground "that a sub-committee of one is without power to compel a witness against his will to appear for any examination which is not public."

The majority judges did not write an opinion explaining their decision.

MAR 14 1941

Kern was held in contempt when he refused to testify before Councilman Alfred E. Smith, Jr., chairman of the Civil Service Investigating Committee of the City Council. Smith was conducting sub-committee hearings in private proceedings.

35i-1941

DELAWARE

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Women Fight WPA Firings In Delaware

Negro, White Sewing Project Workers Form Committee

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WILMINGTON, Del., July 2.—~~Two hundred and~~ fifty elderly women initiated a brave fight for their existence here this week, forming a "Committee to Save the WPA Sewing Project."

JUL 3 1941

It was announced only this week that the project would fold July 3, leaving elderly women, 70 of whom are Negroes, without a livelihood.

The committee found immediate support from a number of CIO and AFL unions as well as prominent individuals, which filed protest against Wilmington's Levy Court, the welfare agency which has provided the local sponsorship for the project until now. Recently it was learned that the Levy Court had served notice it would no longer sponsor the project.

WOMEN UNITED

The unity of the sewing project women was dramatized by their disregard of jim crow "law" in Wilmington, meeting together in common cause and deciding "we'll all do our starving in the office of the Levy Court if they won't see the light."

The Committee sponsored a large meeting last Saturday, which was addressed by Jerry Turner, of Local 201, International Fur and Leather Workers of America, CIO, and Dan Slinger, business agent of the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers, A. F. of L.

JUL 9 1941

A delegation was elected to appear at the Levy Court on Tuesday, following which another meeting has been called to discuss the delegation's report.

35i-1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

BEAUTICIANS SEEK BETTER BUSINESS PLAN

JAN 25 1941

Open Series Of Meets To Stabilize Industry On National Scope

WASHINGTON—(ANP) —The opening meeting of a series planned by the National Beauty Culturists league and associated organizations to stabilize that profession was held here Monday with prominent speakers addressing the large crowds.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Marjorie Stewart Joyner, representative of the National Beauty Culturists league and also of the Walker company, and the Washington Beauty Shop Owners league, the huge crowd of beauticians, students and friends of the organizations listened attentively while Mrs. Lillian Coward, secretary of the Cosmetic board; Dr. William J. Thompkins, recorder of deeds, and Miss Louise Stith of the women's bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, told them various salient facts about the project they hope to put over.

Called together to discuss ways and means of establishing the beauty culture business on a systematized basis, to eliminate price cutting, wild cat operators and for the protection of the licensed owners of shops and for licensed operators, the audience showed its sympathy toward the aims of the group by continuous applause when speakers scored points.

Dr. Thompkins made several strong points and suggested ways and means of raising the standards of the business, but his chief emphasis, besides discussing the sanitary aspects of the business, was on the proper conduct of shops.

At one point Dr. Thompkins said the public should be educated to look for the operator's license as a means of proper protection and assailed the sanitary code of the district as one of the poorest in America. He also advocated Negro representation on the Cosmetic board and in every spot where it would be helpful to the organizations.

Following the discussions, there was an advance style show, with models illustrating the new fashions to be expected in the spring.

In presenting Mrs. Eleanor Jackson, the only colored member of the board of examiners, Mrs. Joyner stated in regard to the students who were present that she considered them the life of the beauty culture business and the means of expanding it and continuing it as a life stream of the Negro economic situation.

Wages, hours and means of presenting the claims of the licensed operators were discussed.

Telegrams were sent by the national president of the Beauty Culturists league who was unable to be present; by locals in Philadelphia and in New York, all indicating their willingness and readiness to go along with the members assembled in meeting in every possible way until their goal was achieved.

D.C.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Pickets in Reverse as Whites Seek Our Trade

WASHINGTON

The antithesis of Washington's job-picket campaign against white merchants who refuse to employ colored workers was staged in Southwest Washington, Friday, when white pickets paraded in front of a colored restaurant to force the owner to buy bread from a local concern.

The restaurant, at [illegible]05 Fourth Street, Southwest, has no white patronage. It is one of four operated by William Smith.

The pickets were assigned by the Bakery Salesmen's Local 33 and Bakers' Local 118, AF of L, in an attempt to force the proprietor to take his trade away from a Baltimore concern which has been serving him for all of the four years he has been in business and give it to one of the local bakeries.

Originally Refused

Mr. Smith charged that when he had only one small grill, all of the local bakeries refused to serve him because he had so little trade, and he was forced to deal with a Baltimore firm.

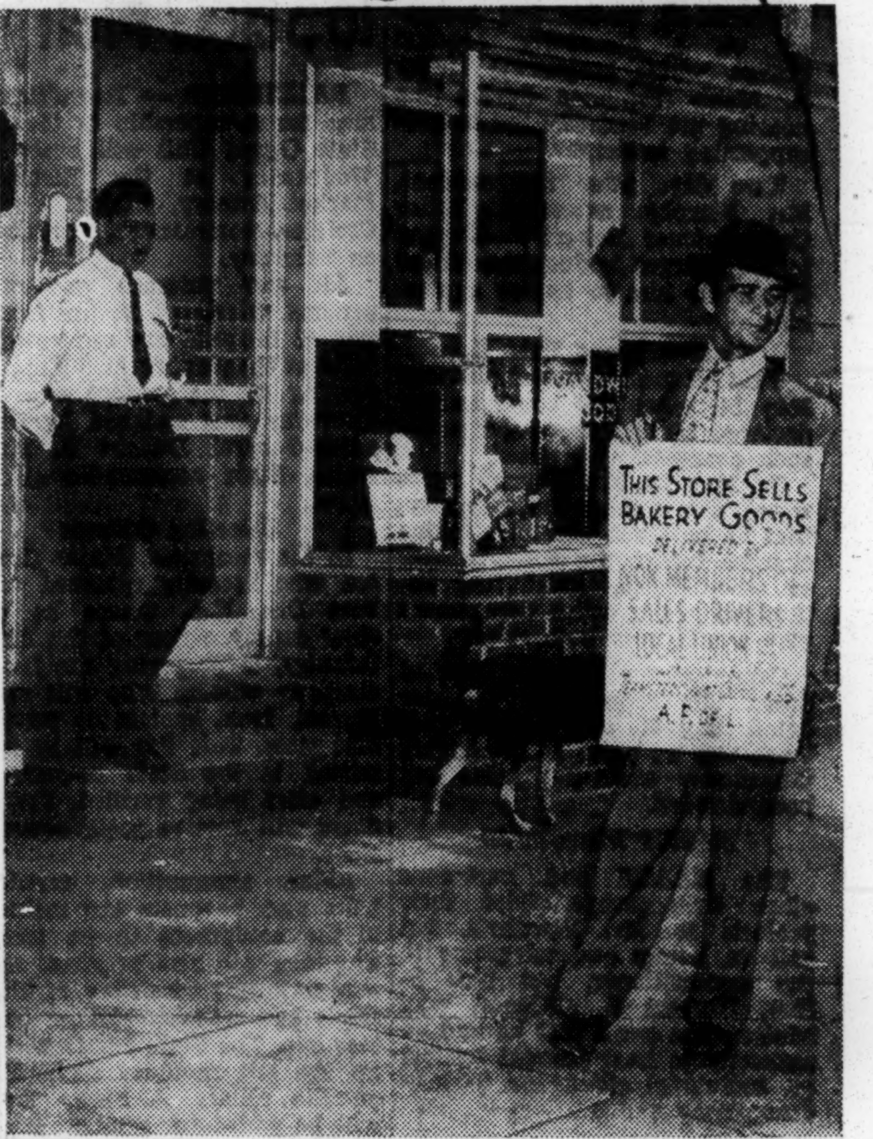
After he developed a chain of four shops, they began exerting pressure to compel him to cut off relations with the out-of-town concern.

Mr. Smith agreed that he would deal with the local firms only if they put a colored salesman and a colored baker on the payroll.

"I want all the colored business men who buy pastry to join me in this fight to get a salesman and a baker into the companies if they want our trade," he said.

On this basis, he states that he is going to appeal to the NAACP and the New Negro Alliance to help him in his fight. His other shops are at 43 H Street, Northeast; 1104 Twentieth Street, Northwest; and 1322 Ninth Street, Northwest.

White Against Black



William (Bill) Smith, owner of a chain of four grills, looks on as a white representative of Bakery Salesmen's Local 33, and Bakers' Local 118, A.F. of L., pickets his restaurant in an effort to force him to purchase pastry from a capital member instead of a Baltimore firm.

JUN 21 1941

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Laundry Workers Strike for Higher Wages, 40 Hours

Three hundred and fifty employees of the Arcade Sunshine Laundry, of which 85 per cent are colored, declared an all out strike Wednesday morning after all efforts to negotiate with Harry Viner, owner, for union recognition, a 40-hour week, 20 per cent wage increase, one week vacation, one week sick leave no Sunday work and the observance of the six national holidays had failed.

The strike at the Arcade Laundry is the first step of the campaign of the general organization of the Cleaners and Laundry workers Union of the Almagated Clothing Workers of the World to establish a city-wide contract for all laundry workers here, Union officials told the Tribune. The campaign was launched by the general organization three weeks ago at a mass meeting held at 1502 Fourteenth Street, Northwest.

According to Noah C. A. Walter, member of the general organization that of the 5,000 laundry workers in the District of Columbia, the union represents over 3,000. "We are willing to end the strike today if possible," he said, "or continue it for 6 months if necessary." At a meeting of the general executive board of the union held on Tuesday in the Wardman Park Hotel a unanimous vote was taken to continue the campaign until a city-wide contract is granted all laundry workers.

Says Laundry is Unfair

Officials of the union claim victory is near for them after having sweeping charges allegedly made by the National Labor Relations Board against the laundry during an hearing on the strike grievences, Tuesday. At the meeting held in Baltimore the labor board is reputed to have charged the laundry with "unfair labor practices." The charges grew out of the dismissal of William Jones, an employee of the laundry for 17 years who was fired because of union activity who was ordered reinstated with a salary adjustment of $2,750 and later fired again for encouraging employees to join the union. The board is alleged to have charged the laundry with contempt of court and violation of the labor laws.

On Tuesday [illegible] a mass meeting held at the Murray Casino, a letter calling for a city-wide contract for all laundry workers was drafted and already the National Laundry which employs 250 workers, of which the majority are colored, has been called to discuss terms of the contract. George Marshall, owner of the Palace Laundry will be called in on the conference, Mr. Walter said.

Other Laundries Affected

Other laundries to be affected by the campaign are the Page, Manhattan, Elite, Yale, Dupont, Howard, Kent, Aristo and Tolmans. There are others who will be called in later, it was said.

In an effort to avert a walkout, some laundries are voluntarily offering raises and a week's vacation, but officials of the union declare that contracts will be demanded of these companies also.

JUL 12 1941

Pittsburgh Courie
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RED CAPS WIN SECURITY FIGHT

25 i

WASHINGTON, July 24—The intensified and bitterly fought four-year-old struggle of the United Transport Service Employees of America for the complete integration of the Red Cap into American transportation service came to a dramatic and highly successful close last week when the Interstate Commerce Commission made public its decision in the case of Stopher vs. Cincinnati Union Terminal Company.

Out of this case the Interstate Commerce Commission definitely established [illegible] and for all, that Red Cap service in carrying hand-baggage is an integral part of railroad transportation service and that the whole system of "red capping" is placed under the protection of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

JUL 26 1941

JUL 26 1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Lemus Out as Union Leader

WASHINGTON. —(ANP)— With reorganization of the Brotherhood of Dining Car Employes in convention here July 16 and 17, Rienzi B. Lemus, founder and long time head of the union, was relieved of all executive authority and responsibilities.

New officials include J. P. Covington, chairman executive board; Ferrand W. Smith, general president, and Nathan Murrough, general secretary-treasurer, all of Washington.

W. M. Belcher, Atlanta, and J. G. Dickerson, Washington, general vice presidents, are the only hold overs from the old regime.

JUL 25 1941

Miami, Fla. Herald
May 16, 1941

Union Treasurer Appeals Case

Charles I. Sands, negro treasurer of the negro branch of the local Hodcarriers, Building and Common Laborers union, appealed Thursday to the State Supreme court from an adverse Circuit court ruling on his petition for release from a charge of embezzling union funds.

State Attorney G. A. Worley and Thomas H. Anderson, assistant county solicitor, were directed to answer by June 23.

Circuit Judge Stanley Milledge recently refused to free Sands on habeas corpus proceedings. Sands' attorney, R. A. Hendricks, said the outcome of these proceedings also would affect a similar charge pending against Michael M. Burke, treasurer of the white branch of the union. Both union officials were indicted by a grand jury last fall.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Bishop, Fearing Passage Of Lynch Bill, Raps Mob

MAY 31 1941

QUINCY, Fla.,—Fear that the brutal mob death of A. C. Williams here a fortnight ago might spur passage of the anti-lynching bill, to which they are unalterably opposed, prompted Bishop John D. Wing of the Episcopal diocese of South Florida and editors of the Gadsden County Times to denounce severely the "unknown members of the lynch mob here last week.

Bishop Wing, in a telegram to Governor Holland of Florida, demanded suspension of Sheriff M. P. Luten, from whom Williams was taken by the killers, pending complete investigation of the incident. The paper editorially blasted Quincy's "Nazi-minded citizens" who "went berserk and succeeded in smearing the city across the pages of the newspapers as a lawless community."

A coroner's jury last Tuesday established that Williams, who was 22, had entered a local home intending thievery. The origin of a report that the youth had attempted to attack a 12-year old white girl, blamed as the major incitement to the lynching, could not be determined.

A local white resident is said to have been aroused by screams midnight Saturday two weeks ago, glimpsed an intruder fleeing from the room in which his two daughters, the oldest just 12, had been sleeping. The householder fired at the figure but missed.

Later arrested and charged with being the suspect, Williams was taken from his cell by 4 unidentified men who raided the jail, according to reports, left him riddled with bullets but still alive not far from the jail.

MAY 31 1941

Found and taken to his mother's home, Williams was removed by Sheriff Luten, placed in an ambulance to be taken the A. and M., Hospital. The four men are said to have intercepted the ambulance, forcing Williams' 16-year-old brother, Rufus, to help carry the wounded youth to another car which then sped away.

Williams body was found on a nearby bridge the next morning.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Holland Aroused by 'Mob Violence,' Warns Sheriff

(The Associated Press)

Key West, Fla., June 27.—Sheriff Berlin Sawyer said today he would call on the marines if necessary to put down any further mob violence concerning defense housing projects here.

JUN 28 1941

Ho[illegible]d men drove 15 workers from a $400,000 project Wednesday night and beat two of them who had stopped outside the city to change an automobile tire.

Governor Spessard Holland telegraphed Sawyer today that he would "not tolerate lawlessness or mob violence" and would hold the sheriff accountable for the welfare of the workers.

Sawyer replied he could "assure you definitely that there will be no repetition of Wednesday night's fray."

The workers, Sawyer said, would be given the full protection of his office. The sheriff said he had learned from witnesses that only one shot was fired. A truck belonging to the contractor, he said, was found abandoned with the engine disabled and two tires cut.

JUN 28 1941

Fla. Police Persecutes Labor Man

SEP 13 1941

OKEECHOBEE, Fla., Sept. 11—(ANP)—Nebraska Jones, UTSEA southern regional director, was taken in custody for questioning by local police here, it was learned this week. Mr. Jones, formerly industrial secretary for the Memphis Urban league and a graduate of Tuskegee institute, has been in charge of the southern organization drive of the UTSEA since March of this year.

SEP 13 1941

Jones and others were enroute to a meeting with track laborers employed by the Florida East Coast railroad company, August 31, when local police stopped the car. After searching Jones and questioning him concerning his activities with the UTSEA, he was released and allowed to continue on his way. The sheriff explained to Jones that he was "satisfied with his credentials and that he was detained merely to give information concerning the true nature of his organization's activities. He was told that information imparted would serve to clear up rumors that strike between white and Negro workers was the hidden purpose behind the UTSEA program.

Authoritative sources hold that this arrest was instigated by white A. F. of L. railway brotherhoods who were alarmed at the recent advances made by the UTSEA with unorganized Negro railroad workers. It is said that this was a part of campaign by the white groups to intimidate and slander the organization in a wild attempt to stem the growth of effective minority trade union organization among Negroes in the railroad industry.

351-1941

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Employes On Dining Cars Want Wage Law Amended

JAN 25 1941

Predict Railroads Will Deduct Room, Board From New 36 Cent Medium.

CHICAGO, Jan. 23—(ANP)—Recent announcements by the wage and hour division of the U.S. Department of Labor that more than $7,000,000 will be added to the pay of railroad workers through establishment of the new minimum pay of 36 cents per hour in March are viewed with apprehension by the Joint Council of Dining Car employees.

According to Richard W. Smith, secretary-treasurer of the organization, this may result in a smaller income for many of the 14,000 Negro dining car workers throughout the nation instead of an increase in monthly pay.

"While dining car employees on a number of roads earn less than 36 cents per hour, and should be entitled to this minimum rate, the railroads have and will oppose paying it on the grounds they furnish such employees room and board, for they have consistently refused to pay the 30-cent minimum now in effect as is designated for all railroad employees under current terms of the act," Mr. Smith said.

He pointed out that certain roads pay such employees 25 cents, contending the remaining five cents per hour is taken up in room and board. Claims in every such instance have been filed against the railroads by the joint council. Mr. Smith asserted that room and board given employees has never been a matter for arbitartion when employees negotiated with the railroads for wages, but was furnished by the railways to facilitate their business.

The only solution is to have the law amended so that railroad employees will be exempted from paying the companies for room and board, the official declared. The council is planning a vigorous fight to this end before the wage and hour division in Washington. Mr. Smith said that when track workers were not paid the minimum because railroads contended shacks were maintained for their use as lodging places, complaints were iled and these workers were

awarded $200 each. This, he feels, establishes a precedent for a similar decision in the case of dining car employees.

At the same time, the minimum of 36 cents an hour may not actually increase an employee's individual earnings even if paid, the official asserted, because the railroads will then reduce each individual's working hours per month with a subsequent loss of opportunity to make tips on the part of dining car waiters.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Many Unions Join Fight On Measure

MAR 4 1941

Negro Leader Pledges Full Support for Campaign

New York mothers and wives will gather Thursday afternoon in the theatrical district for the first woman's demonstration against the Lend-Lease bill, HR 1776.

The picket line will be sponsored by the Woman's Division of American Peace Mobilization according to an announcement by Dr. Annette F. Rubinstein, Woman's Division chairman. The demonstrators will gather in front of Croatian Hall, 236 W. 40th St. at 4 P.M., and will proceed to the theatrical district.

"Hundreds of thousands of New York women have felt fear and apprehension at the nearness of war," said Dr. Rubinstein yesterday. "We read only the other day about the War Department's inquiry for coffins and we shuddered when we heard about the millions of identification tags which have been ordered with space for records of death or wounds.

MAR 4 1941

"Thus far we have had no way of expressing our individual horror for war nor our belief that the passage of HR 1776, with its free grant of war powers to the President, will hasten this calamity.

"Thursday's demonstration will give every woman in New York an unexampled opportunity of showing where she stands. We women from homes, shops, factories, offices and schools have the plain duty of acting to protect our sons and husbands or our sweethearts from becoming engulfed by the conflict. We want to keep our men off the battlefield, and we plan to meet Thursday so that our representatives in Congress will know how we feel."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Louise Thompson Speaks At CNDA Club Sunday

FEB 23 1941

Miss Louise Thompson, vice president of the International Workers Order, world traveler, and lecturer, spoke briefly before a capacity house at the CNDA club house last Sunday afternoon.

The club house was filled by club women and friends attending Negro History Week celebration sponsored by the Negro History committee of the Federation.

Mrs. Geraldyne Washington is chairman. Mrs. Lula B. Nute is co-chairman. David Ross presented several paintings of young Negro artists from the South Side Community Art Center; these paintings were on view during the celebration. Among the artists to assist on the program were Mrs. Louise Margaret Taylor Goss who read several poems. Mrs. Birdie Roberts spoke on "Lives of Unknown Soldiers of the World War." Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis read Johnson's "Creation." Mrs. Martha M. Parks conducted group singing. The second half of the program was the lecture by Miss Louise Thompson on the lives of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman.

FEB 23 1941

Mrs. Nannie Mae Williams, the president of the CNDA federation responded to the address. Mrs. Rebecca Stiles Taylor was mistress of ceremonies.

Mrs. Elsie G. Duckworth, the general chairman of the Fine Arts department of which the Negro History committee is a part was absent on account of illness.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Labor Unions

FEB 2 1941

IN Dean Hancock's column appearing on this page last week was the recommendation that the solution for racial discrimination in labor unions lie in establishing separate ones for Negroes. We deny this conclusion. We say it is untenable, undemocratic and un-American. It is contrary to the thoug[illegible] of the best labor leaders. It would depr[illegible] Negroes of all their rights to collective b[illegible]ing guaranteed by the National Labo[illegible] Relations Act. It would take Negroes out of all jobs in competition with whites and releg[illegible]te colored workers to the lowest paid jobs and the hardest tasks.

FEB 2 1941

You do not change a person's mind by catitulating. Wars are not won through the cunning ingenuity of appeasers. If principles are worth having they are worth fighting for to perpetuate them.

Within the last few years Negro labor leaders have been able to do remarkable work in shaping the policies of labor unions. This was especially true in the case of the newly formed C. I. O. locals. Negroes were able to get in on the ground floor and help in drawing up and formulating the policies of that organization. The A. F. of L. was organized at a time when colored workers were not particularly interested in unions. The policies were formed before they became active in them. A good many have been broken down that prevented Negroes from becoming affiliated with A. F. of L. locals. A good many will be broken down unless our appeasers win in their policies to establish separate unions for Negroes.

Some states have made laws that suspend the right of collective bargaining to any union which practices racial discrimination. We need more states with such laws.

The time has come when labor leaders tell the employer whom to hire. If Negroes are in separate labor unions it is reasonable to suppose that they will not be the predominant unions. The white locals will dictate the policies of employment. It is only reasonable to assume that the colored worker will not be treated on an equal basis in such a set up with reference to the type of work

r the rate of pay.

FEB 2 1941

We submit, therefore, that the solution o he Negro labor problem can best be attaine y complete and unconditional integratio nto all unions and by the use of the well-nown technique of "boring from within."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

"The Unions Won't Let Me"

NOV 22 1941

GEORGE Streator in an article entitled, "So the Negroes Want Work!" in The Commonweal magazine of last August 22 quotes an employer as follows:

"No, I cannot hire Negroes for my factories. THE UNIONS WON'T LET ME. I have no prejudices . . . but . . ."

Mr. Streator concluded his article with a reference to a man who "was reading passages about 'lights going out in Europe' . . . In many places in America our lights have never been lit."

When the President spoke Monday night he was given the loudest and longest applause when he "tore into" the type of labor leaders he characterized as menaces to our security. He had in mind, obviously, John L. Lewis and his shutting down of coal mines necessary to the production of steel—the number one defense product.

The reaction of the public as evidenced in polls just published, the growing concern of the press and of more enlightened labor unions, in periodically causing defense work stoppages, and the long-time policies of unions in losing sight of their real purposes, one of which is the improvement and stabilization of conditions for ALL workers—all these things show that labor is about to defeat its own purpose if it does not mend its ways.

NOV 22 1941

We sincerely hope that the mending, which inevitably must come, will include the erasure of barriers to workers of color, who cannot get work unless they are union men, but are refused union memberships.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AS I SEE IT

JAN 25 1941

By C. W. RICE

IT IS UNFAIR THAT LABOR UNIONS DENY WORKERS BOTH MEMBERSHIP AND RIGHT TO WORK; NEGROES HAVE NO REDRESS IN COURT WHEN FORCED OFF JOB BY UNION PRESSURE; PRACTICE UN-AMERICAN AND WORSE THAN HITLERISM.

As I See It when Judge Allen B. Hannay handed down a decision last week denying a restaurant owner's petition to stop a picket line that had marched in front of his business since November 5, it was a serious blow to the democratic right of employers and Negro labor.

Doyle Tipton, cafe man, purchased the Petroleum Cafe in the 1300 block on Texas avenue. In taking over the business, Mr. Tipton, it is reported, told employees who were working at the establishment before he took it over, that wage and working conditions would remain the same for all workers. The only change made in help was that he brought a faithful and qualified Negro cook who had worked for him many years at a former cafe business he operated before the new purchase.

A few days after Mr. Tipton had bought the place and before he could get straightened out, he was notified by the business agent of the Cooks and Waiters union that the Negro was not satisfactory to the union and demanded his discharge because he "was not a member of the union." The manager told the cook of the situation and advanced him initiation fees. The Negro made the application and was rejected. The owner inquired why he was turned down and the union refused to state why but repeated its demand that he be fired.

Mr. Tipton refused to let the Negro go, so the next day, the business agent returned at the busiest hour and according to reports, told the owner to put on his apron he was calling a strike. The waitresses, with the exception of one, walked out.

The case was finally taken to the courts and under the laws of our Democratic Country, there was no help for either the employer who had made a heavy investment in effort to make a living, or the Negro who had committed no crime, but had to leave his job for which he prepared himself for no other reason than that of his color. The judge found there was a legitimate labor dispute and the picketing justified according to a constitutional clause which provides for "freedom of speech."

As I See It this incident is one of the many such occurences pointed out and discussed in this column as one of the numerous examples of injustice and un-American activities practiced by unions in this country. It seems to me that America would clean its house of this rank evil especially at a time when "democracies" are tumbling and falling in nearly all parts of the world. Practices as happened at the cafe makes it difficult to convince many people that America, as a nation, is sincere in its fight to maintain democracy abroad, while the personal rights of its citizens are destroyed within its own gates.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Labor Unions And Discrimination

MAR 16 1941

LAST month Representative Charles J. Jenkins introduced in the state legislature a bill designed to outlaw discrimination in labor unions on the basis of race, creed, or color. The measure is now pending before the Committee on Industrial affairs.

The American Federation of Labor abhors the bill for it is the chief object for which the complaints of colored laborers against racial discrimination are directed. That organization thinks that it will be to the best interest of labor to permit that problem to be worked out by the process of education. That we have tried for sometime. We find it is as effective as educating people out of crime. The law and logic have long recognized the fact that offenses against the right to live should be discouraged by methods other than merely voluntary ones. The law should be used to coerce those who would deprive others of their livelihood into a sense of justice.

MAR 16 1941

Jenkins' bill proposes to do this. It provides that "No labor organization shall hereafter, directly or indirectly, by ritualistic practice, constitutional or by-law prescriptions, by tacit agreement among its members, or otherwise deny any person membership in its organization by reason of his race, color or creed; or by regulations, practice or otherwise, deny to any of its members, by reason of race, color or creed, equal treatment with all other members in any designation of members to any employer for employment, promotion or dismissal by such employer."

Labor organizations are supposed to promote the interests of labor. It fails miserably in its purpose when it comes to the rights of Negro laborers. It refuses, in a good many instances, to permit colored people to join its ranks. Membership in a union not infrequently is a prerequisite to the right to work. Therefore, when a person is deprived of the right to join a union for any reasons he is deprived in many cases of the right to work. Now to convince the victim of such malicious discrimination that his remedy for the evil should be found in the gradual and slow and doubtful process of education is about as easy as convincing the victim of a lynch mob that the mobsters are acting in his best interests.

At present a Negro plumber can not join a union. He is, therefore, unable to work except for the Jim Crow set-up that has recently been devised to confine him to his own neighborhood and to persons of his own race. How long this will last is up to the union bosses.

MAR 16 1941

The state of Illinois needs a law to discourage organized labor from discrimination and segregation.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

50,000 Race Miners To Get Wage Increase

MAR 29 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Because 50,000 Negro miners in eight states covered by wage negotiations now going on in New York between representatives of John L. Lewis' Mine Workers union and coal operators in the Appalachian region stand to gain $20,000,000 in wage increases during the coming year, officials of the National Negro Congress declared this week that the organization stood squarely behind the union's fight for better living standards.

MAR 29 1941

The sentiment of Congress officials was contained in a telegram sent to Lewis in New York, Thursday, March 13, praising the president of the United Mine Workers for his "demand for the abolition of the North-South differentials," as a "further step in the protection of the interests of Negro miners."

The states covered by the mine workers negotiations for new contracts include: Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. West Virginia has the largest number of Negro miners in the group, most recent figures giving the state an estimated 25,000.

351-1941
Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala

GENERAL

Wage Increases Won After Hard Struggle

(This is the second of two articles showing the background for the recent wage increases won by the workers in a number of industries, including the ten cents an hour wage raise in steel.)

Rising prices and the generally increasing cost of living, alongside the gathering organization of the unorganized, soon brought matters to a head. Workers in increasing numbers began to demand higher wages. Since industry was working at full blast and had been forced to recall some hundreds of thousands of workers organizing was made easier. Hundreds of thousands of workers joined the CIO and added their voices to the demands for better pay in the face of a reduced standard of living. Official governmental reports indicated price rises rainging from 5 per cent to 20 per cent. Increasing actions were taken with a new militiancy by workers all over the couneraltry. While these actions were quite general throughout the labor movement, the center and leadership of these struggles lay within the heart of the CIO.

MAY 8 - 1941

Alongside the demands for higher wages went other demands for improved conditions and shorter hours. Here for example the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers won a great victory in obtaining the eight-hour collar-to-collar decision which gave them a straight eight-hour working day instead of one that often ran over nine and a half hours for eight hours pay.

vacations with pay and other necessary conditions. That the United Mine Workers struggles is a long drawn by one is due to the difference in wages paid north and south of the Mason Dixon line. That this struggle will conclude successfully for the mine workers is certain, and they should be given due credit for taking this decisive step in breaking down one of the facto s that has long retarded the development of the labor movement in this country.

MAY 8 - 1941

ORE MINES

The Rea ore miners too were closely tied up with this development. From the very beginning the ore miners in the South have been in the lead in fighting for higher wages and better conditions for the workers. In the combined

struggles of this period and in the

VICIOUS ATTACKS

But alongside the demands and independent actions of the unions go increasingly vicious attacks by industry and the legislators. Attempts are being made to introduce no-strike laws, to freeze conditions as they are, to prevent picketing, and in many other ways to prevent labor from taking necessary action to improve its conditions.

On the whole labor has been able to enforce its demands. Parallel action by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, the Automobile Workers, the United Mine Workers, the CIO unions within the shipbuilding, ore mining, textile, packing, aviation and other industries forced the employers to grant substantial wage increases and to grant many improvements in conditions, supporting militancy of the men themselves lay the success obtained. What the increases in pay mean to the ore miners, what the collar-to-collar decision means to their conditions is very hard to estimate, but there is hardly a home within the red ore mining district that has not felt the benefits and will increasingly feel them in the future.

These benefits were not accidental, their defense and further steps forward will not be accidents either The defense of what has been obtained and the improvements of the future will continue to rest entirely in the hands of the miners themselves and can only lie within t active. progressive policies of t CIO they have been carrie up to this time. Slackness anc difference will onlly permit gradual defeat of labor.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

LA FOLLETTE SEES 'LYNCHING' OF LABOR

~~MAY 10 1941~~

Senator, Honored Here, Blames Employers for Most Strikes, Calls Unions the Victims

PUBLIC MISLED, HE HOLDS

Gen

Lists 'Fallacies' in Defense Situation—Plaque Given by Workers League

MAY 10 1941

Vigorously defending labor's side in national defense strikes, Senator Robert M. La Follette, here to receive a plaque of honor from the Workers Defense League for "distinguished service in behalf of labor's rights," declared it would be tragic to sacrifice labor's gains in a "legislative lynching bee" under "the pious garb of patriotism."

The Wisconsin Senator, who was guest of honor at a dinner at the Town Hall Club at which the bronze plaque in recognition of his work as chairman of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee was awarded to him, placed the blame for the majority of defense strikes on "recalcitrant employers" and said that "obvious fallacies" in the public's attitude toward these strikes should be "exposed."

The presentation was made by David L. Clendenin, national secretary-treasurer of the Workers Defense League, a national organization devoted to defense of labor's rights. Various speakers, including Mrs. Elinore M. Herrick, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, joined in voicing tributes to Senator La Follette. Varying shades of opinion were expressed by the speakers, Mrs. Herrick, for instance, pointing out that, while she did not share the Senator's non-interventionist viewpoint on the war, she deemed it a privilege to hail his labor record.

Discussing the defense strike situation, Mrs. Herrick deprecated blanket accusations of Communist influence in all labor disputes. She added, however, that "where we find there is any excuse for the charge of communism in a union, those leaders must be cleared out, or the cause of labor is going to suffer."

La Follette Asks New View

"The American people," Senato La Follette asserted, "should know who is behind and who stands to profit from this vicious and unscrupulous attack being waged on the rights of labor under national defense. The leading behind-the-scenes participants in this shallow scheme to save democracy by putting it on ice are certain organized employer groups who have made it a regular practice and business to conspire against the rights of labor in their trade or region.

"They include the violent ant unionists who politely call themselves 'open shoppers,' the promotional and community business groups who hope to attract industry by maintaining cheap and unorganized labor supplies, and just plain 'rugged individualists' with antiquated concepts of industria absolutism.

MAY 10 1941

"There are some obvious fallacies in the current public analysis that strikes in defense industries are perverse, unnecessary and disloyal activities that can be simply eliminated by passing a law. These fallacies, too, must be exposed. The real causes of strikes, whatever they are, must be revealed so that they may be understood. The false notion that strikes, which mean untold risks to the striker and his family in the loss of income and the potential loss of his job, are an enjoyable exercise without much reason except to obstruct production is so silly that it should evaporate automatically.

"But, for some reason, that conception still lingers in certain quarters. The mistaken appraisal of all strikes as jurisdictional in character, involving simply struggles between two groups of union leaders to obtain control, is another bit of folklore which too many people do not recognize.

"On the other hand, the fact that the primary cause of many of our most serious strikes in defense industries is the refusal by recalcitrant employers to bargain collectively receives little emphasis. Even more surprising is the failure to emphasize that many of the leading companies, in whose plants strikes have occurred, are guilty of a persistent course of illegal conduct which merits nothing but condemnation and must be uprooted by law, economic pressure and public opinion as soon and as quickly we would wipe out any other reg lar course of criminal and illeg activity."

Doubts Effect on Defense

Senator La Follette challenge the "popular misconception" tha strikes "are seriously impairing ou defense efforts." Actual loss o working hours is small, he said, and "those who have tried to make labor the scapegoat in this production crisis" should look for different "bottlenecks," such as loss of time through injury and illness of workers, much of which, he said, could be prevented.

With America preparing to defend its free institutions from "political totalitarian dictatorship," it should be recognized that "trade unions and democracy and freedom from dictatorship have become synonomous," Senator La Follette asserted.

MAY 10 1941

Dr. Frank Kingdon, director of the Emergency Rescue Committee, and honorary chairman of the dinner, was unable to be present. John F. Finerty, member of the league's executive board, was chairman. In addition to Mrs. Herrick, speakers included Walter White, secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Marx Lewis, executive vice president United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, A. F. of L. N. A. Zonarich, international president Aluminum Workers of America, C. I. O., and James B. Carey, secretary of the C. I. O., could not attend but sent messages of praise.

351-1941
Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala

GENERAL

Wage Increases Won After Hard Struggle

(This is the second of two articles showing the background for the recent wage increases won by the workers in a number of industries, including the ten cents an hour wage raise in steel.)

Rising prices and the generally increasing cost of living, alongside the gathering organization of the unorganized, soon brought matters to a head. Workers in increasing numbers began to demand higher wages. Since industry was working at full blast and had been forced to recall some hundreds of thousands of workers organizing was made easier. Hundreds of thousands of workers joined the CIO and added their voices to the demands for better pay in the face of a reduced standard of living. Official governmental reports indicated price rises rainging from 5 per cent to 20 per cent. Increasing actions were taken with a new militiancy by workers all over the coun-eraltry. While these actions were quite general throughout the labor movement, the center and leadership of these struggles lay within the heart of the CIO.

MAY 8 - 1941

Alongside the demands for higher wages went other demands for improved conditions and shorter hours. Here for example the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers won a great victory in obtaining the eight-hour collar-to-collar decision which gave them a straight eight-hour working day instead of one that often ran over nine and a half hours for eight hours pay.

vacations with pay and other necessary conditions. That the United Mine Workers struggles is a long drawn by one is due to the difference in wages paid north and south of the Mason Dixon line. That this struggle will conclude successfully for the mine workers is certain, and they should be given due credit for taking this decisive step in breaking down one of the facto s that has long retarded the development of the labor movement in this country.

MAY 8 - 1941

ORE MINES

The Rea ore miners too were closely tied up with this development. From the very beginning the ore miners in the South have been in the lead in fighting for higher wages and better conditions for the ore workers. In the combined

struggles of this period and in the

VICIOUS ATTACKS

But alongside the demands and independent actions of the unions go increasingly vicious attacks by industry and the legislators. Attempts are being made to introduce no-strike laws, to freeze conditions as they are, to prevent picketing, and in many other ways to prevent labor from taking necessary action to improve its conditions.

On the whole labor has been able to enforce its demands. Parallel action by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, the Automobile Workers, the United Mine Workers, the CIO unions within the shipbuilding, ore mining, textile, packing, aviation and other industries forced the employers to grant substantial wage increases and to grant many improvements in conditions, supporting militancy of the men themselves lay the success obtained. What the increases in pay mean to the ore miners, what the collar-to-collar decision means to their conditions is very hard to estimate, but there is hardly a home within the red ore mining district that has not felt the benefits and will increasingly feel them in the future.

These benefits were not accidental, their defense and further steps forward will not be accidents either The defense of what has been obtained and the improvements of the future will continue to rest entirely in the hands of the miners themselves and can only lie within the active. progressive policies of the CIO , they have been carried up to this time. Slackness and difference will onlly permit gradual defeat of labor.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

LA FOLLETTE SEES 'LYNCHING' OF LABOR

MAY 10 1941

Senator, Honored Here, Blames Employers for Most Strikes; Calls Unions the Victims

PUBLIC MISLED, HE HOLDS

Lists 'Fallacies' in Defense Situation—Plaque Given by Workers League

MAY 10 1941

Vigorously defending labor's side in national defense strikes, Senator Robert M. La Follette, here to receive a plaque of honor from the Workers Defense League for "distinguished service in behalf of labor's rights," declared it would be tragic to sacrifice labor's gains in a "legislative lynching bee" under "the pious garb of patriotism."

The Wisconsin Senator, who was guest of honor at a dinner at the Town Hall Club at which the bronze plaque in recognition of his work as chairman of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee was awarded to him, placed the blame for the majority of defense strikes on "recalcitrant employers" and said that "obvious fallacies" in the public's attitude toward these strikes should be "exposed."

The presentation was made by David L. Clendenin, national secretary-treasurer of the Workers Defense League, a national organization devoted to defense of labor's rights. Various speakers, including Mrs. Elinore M. Herrick, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, joined in voicing tributes to Senator La Follette. Varying shades of opinion were expressed by the speakers, Mrs. Herrick, for instance, pointing out that, while she did not share the Senator's non-interventionist viewpoint on the war, she deemed it a privilege to hail his labor record.

Discussing the defense strike situation, Mrs. Herrick deprecated blanket accusations of Communist influence in all labor disputes. She added, however, that "where we find there is any excuse for the charge of communism in a union, those leaders must be cleared out, or the cause of labor is going to suffer."

La Follette Asks New View

"The American people," Senator La Follette asserted, "should know who is behind and who stands to profit from this vicious and unscrupulous attack being waged on the rights of labor under national defense. The leading behind-the-scenes participants in this shallow scheme to save democracy by putting it on ice are certain organized employer groups who have made it a regular practice and business to conspire against the rights of labor in their trade or region.

"They include the violent anti-unionists who politely call themselves 'open shoppers,' the promotional and community business groups who hope to attract industry by maintaining cheap and unorganized labor supplies, and just plain 'rugged individualists' with antiquated concepts of industrial absolutism.

MAY 10 1941

"There are some obvious fallacies in the current public analysis that strikes in defense industries are perverse, unnecessary and disloyal activities that can be simply eliminated by passing a law. These fallacies, too, must be exposed. The real causes of strikes, whatever they are, must be revealed so that they may be understood. The false notion that strikes, which mean untold risks to the striker and his family in the loss of income and the potential loss of his job, are an enjoyable exercise without much reason except to obstruct production is so silly that it should evaporate automatically.

"But, for some reason, that conception still lingers in certain quarters. The mistaken appraisal of all strikes as jurisdictional in character, involving simply struggles between two groups of union leaders to obtain control, is another bit of folklore which too many people do not recognize.

"On the other hand, the fact that the primary cause of many of our most serious strikes in defense industries is the refusal by recalcitrant employers to bargain collectively receives little emphasis. Even more surprising is the failure to emphasize that many of the leading companies, in whose plants strikes have occurred, are guilty of a persistent course of illegal conduct which merits nothing but condemnation and must be uprooted by law, economic pressure and public opinion as soon and as quickly as we would wipe out any other regular course of criminal and illegal activity."

Doubts Effect on Defense

Senator La Follette challenged the "popular misconception" that strikes "are seriously impairing our defense efforts." Actual loss of working hours is small, he said, and "those who have tried to make labor the scapegoat in this production crisis" should look for different "bottlenecks," such as loss of time through injury and illness of workers, much of which, he said, could be prevented.

With America preparing to defend its free institutions from "political totalitarian dictatorship," it should be recognized that "trade unions and democracy and freedom from dictatorship have become synonomous," Senator La Follette asserted.

MAY 10 1941

Dr. Frank Kingdon, director of the Emergency Rescue Committee, and honorary chairman of the dinner, was unable to be present. John F. Finerty, member of the league's executive board, was chairman. In addition to Mrs. Herrick, speakers included Walter White, secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Marx Lewis, executive vice president United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, A. F. of L. N. A. Zonarich, international president Aluminum Workers of America, C. I. O., and James B. Carey, secretary of the C. I. O., could not attend but sent messages of praise.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASKS IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN

MAY 17 1941

WASHINGTON, May 15—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor favorably reported last Monday the resolution of Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, its chairman, directing the administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department to investigate the wages, hours and other conditions of employment of Red Caps.

Upon completion of his investigation he would be required to report to the Senate the extent to which such conditions and practices of employment violate the letter or spirit of the minimum wage and maximum hour law or other Federal statutes, the extent to which they are susceptible to regulation under the act in its present form, and what legislation, if any, is necessary for further regulating wages, hours and conditions of employment of Red Caps.

The report, submitted by Senator Thomas, points out that before the Fair Labor Standards Act became effective in 1938, Red Caps received only tips given them by the traveling public. Since then, railroad and terminal companies have adopted various methods of compensating them so as to comply with the minimum wage provisions of that act.

"The conditions and practices of employment of Red Caps under the Fair Labor Standards Act have been productive of many complaints made by members of the traveling public and by the Red Caps," the report states.

"In view of the public interest in the subject matter, it is believed advisable by the committee to direct the Administrator of the Wages and Hours Division of the United States Department of Labor to undertake an inquiry into the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment of Red Caps by railroad or terminal companies in view of the minimum wage requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

White Cleveland Daily Advocates Use Of Skilled Negro Workers

MAY 23 1941

CLEVELAND, May 14—(ANP)—A recent editorial appearing in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, leading white daily, points to the rebuilding of St. James A. M. E. church by Negro artisans and uses this fact as an argument for their capability and a plea that they should be employed in industrial trades. The editorial read in part:

"At a time when the leaders of this race (Negro) have been trying, with the active cooperation of many others in all walks of life, to break down the nothing that the Negro lacks ability in the more skilled crafts, this church has been built entirely by Negro artisans. That fact should help a great deal in eliminating opposition to the employment of Negroes in the more skilled and more lucrative industrial trades.

"Nor will the removal of that prejudice benefit the colored race alone. Even in normal times, the whole community would gain by raising the living standards and increasing the self-respect of the Negro workman. In this time of national emergency it is especially important that this great reserve of man power be used. Even if it were not necessary to our physical safety, it would be essential to our spiritual defense; for so long as we have not given all the benefits of democracy to some of our own citizens we shall not be completely unassailable in our effort to restore democracy to the citizens of other nations."

The occasion which inspired the editorial was the dedication on May 4th of a new $100,000 auditorium of the St. James Church built to replace the structure destroyed by fire three years ago. The St. James forum is known all over the country for significant discussions of outstanding political, religious and cultural topics.

Taking part in the dedication ceremonies were W. R. Ricks, chairman of the trustee board; Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom of the Third Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Church; Bishop C. H. Phillips of the C. M. E. Church; Bishop Frank Madison Reid of South Africa and St. Louis, and Dr. Geo. A. Singleton, editor of the Christian Recorder, Philadelphia. A picture of the Rev. Joseph Gomez, pastor of St. James, was unveiled and presented to the church as a memorial to his work both in the past and during the fund raising campaign which enable the building of the new auditorium.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Railroadmen

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

BESIEGED BY TWO RIVAL UNIONS—RANDOLPH, TOWNSEND SHOULD AGREE

MAY 26 1941

IN a recent discussion of the problems of the Negro railroad workers with George McCray, labor columnist for the Associated Negro Press, the following facts were brought out: There are two rival union groups who are attempting to deal with the problems of the Negro in that industry—the Transport Service Workers' union and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

McCray felt that the TSWU, led by Williard S. Townsend, enjoys much greater freedom of action in dealing with this situation than does the Brotherhood, led by Phillip A. Randolph. The situation is that the Negro railroad worker, in most bargaining units, is a minority group which is not allowed to participate in collective bargaining through the recognized unions. These workers are, however, under the jurisdiction of the various international unions, which jurisdiction Randolph, as a member of the AFL, would not be allowed to encroach. Townsend, on the other hand, represents an independent group who could solicite members from any unorganized group of Negro workers. The purpose of either organization would be to pool the strength of the Negroes in the various occupational groups in the railroad industry to give the present voiceless Negro railroad worker some mechanism through which to articulate his needs and demands.

Mr. Cayton

WAR MAY OFFER CHANCE

Personally I have a hunch that the railroads might be taken over and operated by the government if and when we go into a shooting war. Certainly anyone who has traveled lately can see that our transportation system is being strained to the utmost and there is talk of priorities in the shipment of freight.

If this should happen—if the railroads are taken over by the government—it will afford the Negro railroad workers an unexcelled opportunity to make a bid for justice. It is imperative then that there be developed at the earliest possible moment some overall vertical organization which would represent this group of Negroes. To illustrate just how pressing is the situation, I want to quote from a letter which I recently received from a Negro fireman in Florida. He writes:

On this particular railroad, we are one hundred per cent colored here and have been since 1912 when the white firemen came out on strike. We Negro firemen remained on the job. We were shot at, some were found dead and others were beaten. But we remained and are still here.

We had an engineer for our representative before the management. He was successful in getting us a memorandum of agreement in book form from the management for us, of which, governs our working conditions and rates of pay. He died and we have his wife to represent us as he did before the management. The reason for selecting a woman for our representative, was due to the fact, that we could not have entrusted our jobs to another engineer for representation, because they are in favor of taking our jobs from us. Therefore, we decided it best to have a disinterested party for the job.

Recently the road went into receivership, and now two trustees are appointed by the reorganization that took place on this road recently. What really got us stirred up, along came one by the name of Willard S. Townsend, International President of the Transport Service Employees telling us that our contract is no good. As I before stated, we were satisfied until this came about, now we don't know what to do.

THIS is just one of the plights in which numbers of Negro workers find themselves. In the meantime, Randolph and Townsend don't seem to be able to get together on a plan of organization to bind them into a federation to enable them to, to some extent, protect themselves. Randolph has called two national meetings but failed to produce a workable plan of action. Townsend, for his part, is so anxious to obtain leadership over these workers that he changed the name of his organization so that he could include them—the Red Caps alone cannot support the kind of union he wishes to run. Regardless, however, of all other factors these two men and their organizations should either get together to accomplish this necessary job or one or the other should withdraw and let the other do it.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASKS IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN

WASHINGTON, May 15—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor favorably reported last Monday the resolution of Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, its chairman, directing the administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department to investigate the wages, hours and other conditions of employment of Red Caps.

Upon completion of his investigation he would be required to report to the Senate the extent to which such conditions and practices of employment violate the letter or spirit of the minimum wage and maximum hour law or other Federal statutes, the extent to which they are susceptible to regulation under the act in its present form, and what legislation, if any, is necessary for further regulating wages, hours and conditions of employment of Red Caps.

The report, submitted by Senator Thomas, points out that before the Fair Labor Standards Act became effective in 1938, Red Caps received only tips given them by the traveling public. Since then, railroad and terminal companies have adopted various methods of compensating them so as to comply with the minimum wage provisions of that act.

"The conditions and practices of employment of Red Caps under the Fair Labor Standards Act have been productive of many complaints made by members of the traveling public and by the Red Caps," the report states.

"In view of the public interest in the subject matter, it is believed advisable by the committee to direct the Administrator of the Wages and Hours Division of the United States Department of Labor to undertake an inquiry into the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment of Red Caps by railroad or terminal companies in view of the minimum wage requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

White Cleveland Daily Advocates Use Of Skilled Negro Workers

CLEVELAND, May 14—(ANP)—A recent editorial appearing in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, leading white daily, points to the rebuilding of St. James A. M. E. church by Negro artisans and uses this fact as an argument for their capability and a plea that they should be employed in industrial trades. The editorial read in part:

"At a time when the leaders of this race (Negro) have been trying, with the active cooperation of many others in all walks of life, to break down the nothing that the Negro lacks ability in the more skilled crafts, this church has been built entirely by Negro artisans. That fact should help a great deal in eliminating opposition to the employment of Negroes in the more skilled and more lucrative industrial trades.

"Nor will the removal of that prejudice benefit the colored race alone. Even in normal times, the whole community would gain by raising the living standards and increasing the self-respect of the Negro workman. In this time of national emergency it is especially important that this great reserve of man power be used. Even if it were not necessary to our physical safety, it would be essential to our spiritual defense; for so long as we have not given all the benefits of democracy to some of our own citizens we shall not be completely unassailable in our effort to restore democracy to the citizens of other nations."

The occasion which inspired the editorial was the dedication on May 4th of a new $100,000 auditorium of the St. James Church built to replace the structure destroyed by fire three years ago. The St. James forum is known all over the country for significant discussions of outstanding political, religious and cultural topics.

MAY 23 1941

Taking part in the dedication ceremonies were W. R. Ricks, chairman of the trustee board; Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom of the Third Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Church; Bishop C. H. Phillips of the C. M. E. Church; Bishop Frank Madison Reid of South Africa and St. Louis, and Dr. Geo. A. Singleton, editor of the Christian Recorder, Philadelphia. A picture of the Rev. Joseph Gomez, pastor of St. James, was unveiled and presented to the church as a memorial to his work both in the past and during the fund raising campaign which enable the building of the new auditorium.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Railroadmen

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

BESIEGED BY TWO RIVAL UNIONS—RANDOLPH, TOWNSEND SHOULD AGREE

IN a recent discussion of the problems of the Negro railroad workers with George McCray, labor columnist for the Associated Negro Press, the following facts were brought out: There are two rival union groups who are attempting to deal with the problems of the Negro in that industry—the Transport Service Workers' union and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Mr. Cayton

McCray felt that the TSWU, led by Williard S. Townsend, enjoys much greater freedom of action in dealing with this situation than does the Brotherhood, led by Phillip A. Randolph. The situation is that the Negro railroad worker, in most bargaining units, is a minority group which is not allowed to participate in collective bargaining through the recognized unions. These workers are, however, under the jurisdiction of the various international unions, which jurisdiction Randolph, as a member of the AFL, would not be allowed to encroach. Townsend, on the other hand, represents an independent group who could solicite members from any unorganized group of Negro workers. The purpose of either organization would be to pool the strength of the Negroes in the various occupational groups in the railroad industry to give the present voiceless Negro railroad worker some mechanism through which to articulate his needs and demands.

WAR MAY OFFER CHANCE

Personally I have a hunch that the railroads might be taken over and operated by the government if and when we go into a shooting war. Certainly anyone who has traveled lately can see that our transportation system is being strained to the utmost and there is talk of priorities in the shipment of freight.

If this should happen—if the railroads are taken over by the government—it will afford the Negro railroad workers an unexcelled opportunity to make a bid for justice. It is imperative then that there be developed at the earliest possible moment some overall vertical organization which would represent this group of Negroes. To illustrate just how pressing is the situation, I want to quote from a letter which I recently received from a Negro fireman in Florida. He writes:

> On this particular railroad, we are one hundred per cent colored here and have been since 1912 when the white firemen came out on strike. We Negro firemen remained on the job. We were shot at, some were found dead and others were beaten. But we remained and are still here.
>
> We had an engineer for our representative before the management. He was successful in getting us a memorandum of agreement in book form from the management for us, of which, governs our working conditions and rates of pay. He died and we have his wife to represent us as he did before the management. The reason for selecting a woman for our representative, was due to the fact, that we could not have entrusted our jobs to another engineer for representation, because they are in favor of taking our jobs from us. Therefore, we decided it best to have a disinterested party for the job.
>
> Recently the road went into receivership, and now two trustees are appointed by the reorganization that took place on this road recently. What really got us stirred up, along came one by the name of Willard S. Townsend, International President of the Transport Service Employees telling us that our contract is no good. As I before stated, we were satisfied until this came about, now we don't know what to do.

THIS is just one of the plights in which numbers of Negro workers find themselves. In the meantime, Randolph and Townsend don't seem to be able to get together on a plan of organization to bind them into a federation to enable them to, to some extent, protect themselves. Randolph has called two national meetings but failed to produce a workable plan of action. Townsend, for his part, is so anxious to obtain leadership over these workers that he changed the name of his organization so that he could include them—the Red Caps alone cannot support the kind of union he wishes to run. Regardless, however, of all other factors these two men and their organizations should either get together to accomplish this necessary job or one or the other should withdraw and let the other do it.

35i- 1941

GENERAL

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

They Do Not Want Trouble

Within the past week a number of incidents have occurred in the MidSouth which demonstrate the mood of communities and people in relation to unionization, which may or may not have for its purpose elevation of working standards. In one instance, it is alleged that a negro en route to a farm organization meeting was beaten. In another community a mass gathering of armed citizens is reported to have prevented the unionization of a large number of negroes. In yet another, the organizer was escorted from the community by a citizens committee.

SEP 7 1941

The Commercial Appeal does not believe in summary law enforcement. It does not condone violence. It believes in orderly process for settlement of all problems, individual and communal. For a full century it has opposed anything savoring of vigilante justice.

However, it would be well if those who are attempting unionization among certain elements ,and others who are plotting subversive infiltration of definite groups under the guise of unionization, intelligently attempt an analysis of the mood of the people of this area before undertaking their dangerous missions.

This is an area which has always been free of serious labor difficulties. It is an area which is fundamental in its outlooks as to what constitutes genuine Americanism. Here there are certain traditions and certain standards which, for obvious reasons, cannot be changed suddenly without endangering the trade and social relations of the area. For these reasons alone, the people of the smaller communities, particularly, look with disfavor on any efforts which will bring disorder where, heretofore, there has been order and peace.

SEP 7 1941

Too, the people of the MidSouth have a peculiar regard for the current defense effort—peculiar for, unlike other sections, there is complete unanimity of thought as to what needs be done. The young men of this section have volunteered for duty in the armed services in greater number than in any other part of the country.

What has been said by governmental leaders of lack of awareness on the part of the people to the great danger confronting the Nation cannot be said to truthfully apply to the MidSouth. Sectionally, it was first to concede such danger and demand that nothing be left undone to meet it. Repeatedly have the people and communities of this area expressed themselves in no uncertain terms on such questions as Selective Service Act passage, aid to Britain, and military service extension.

Likewise has this section expressed itself, time and again, on what it thinks of the dilatory and obstructive tactics of labor which have caused the loss of 15,000,000 man-days in defense industries so far this year.

If labor organizers find the going hard in this area they need not look beyond their own ranks to find the reason. The term "organized labor" has become synonymous in many instances with the term "defense obstruction."

This section is acutely aware that subversive elements, guised as labor, are attempting to undermine the loyalty and integrity of racial groups, and to that infiltration this section does not, will not, take kindly.

SEP 7 1941

There is no power, force or influence in government which can compel the people of the MidSouth to accept infiltration placidly or blindly.

This is no area of polyglot populations where old world superstitions and philosophies of government are to be accepted.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Waiters, Red Caps Planning Strike Soon

But Railroad Association Plans Reduction

AUG 31 1941

By RIENZI B. LEMUS

WASHINGTON — (ANP)— On August 23, it was officially stated in the papers that American Federation of Labor dining car workers will take a strike vote owing to long practiced ignoring of their demands [illegible] the nation's railroads for wages and working rules' adjustment, and it is reported that redcaps will do likewise, for similar reasons. Such moves put these classes of employes into the big parade—a nation-wide rail strike is in the offing.

AUG 31 1941

August 26, all railroads were formally advised by the Association of American Railroads to commence drastic curtailments in pasenger train operation now. This association is same to the railroad managers as labor unions are to the workers, and its headquarters are located here, its reason for so advising its' members railroads was stated to be the imperative need of clearing all tracks and terminals for freight and troop trains because of national defense needs Obvious objective, is, though, the railroads' "need" of taking much of the ground from under the feet of the strike threatening unions.

It is palpable that ere long, war shall virtually eliminate passenger train service genrally, so "might as well now as just a little while later," would appear to be the way in which the railroads are called upon to view the situation at this time. That would send many senior passenger train operatives into freight tarin service, and juniors to extra work and WPA,—which is the ultimate fate of many, anyway.

AUG 31 1941

IN NEW AGE

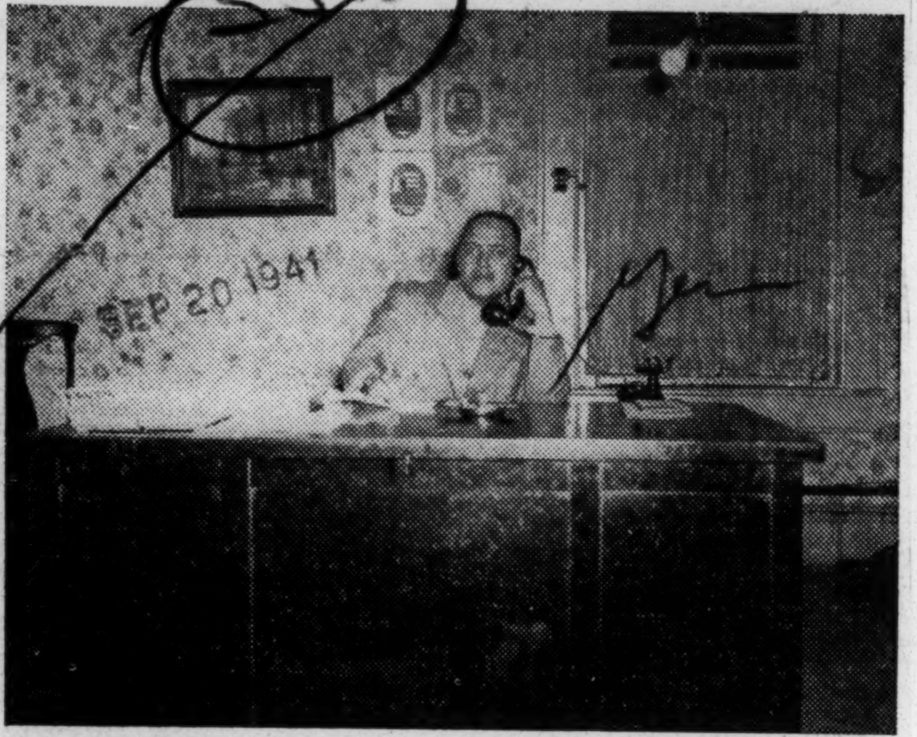
Perhaps never before were present demands of the public for railpassengers accommodations equalled. They are accounted for by war wages, on the one hand, and on the other hand by Diesel-powered, light-weight, streamlined trains of all deluxe coaches—plus a 2c a mile coach-fare. But the prime factor is oil, heavy oil fuel for the Diesel engines; all of which soon shall be required for our sea-going war Diesels. Coal-burning locomotives are comparatively too expensive for general streamline train service. Besides, the national coal situation remains potentially therefore far less untenable than the positions of the unions.

AUG 31 1941

At actual handling of passengers in keeping the stream flowing steadily, the great common denominators in the employ sphere are redcaps ,at terminals and dining car cooks and waiters en route. Elimination of most passenger trains means eliminations of most of the great common demoniators. Adequate dining car personnel has become a headache for most managers and the Association of American Railroads has not yet become reconciled to the fact of a minimum wage established for redcaps for the first time ever, by an act of congress in 1938. The association's call on the railroads to curtail passenger train operation now appears to be effect, threatened strikes of dining car workers and redcaps the precipitating cause.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

HEADS DINING CAR UNION



SEP 20 1941

Prince E. Gallagher, Sr., was recently elected president of Local 582, Dining Car Union of the Southern Pacific. He has been employed on the S.P. for the past 16 years, has been interested in union affairs since the organization of the local in 1937. Before becoming president he has served as chairman of the board of directors, chairman of the entertainment committee, vice-chairman of the grievance committee and director of the Federal Credit Union. There are approximately 150 employees working under an agreement signed by Local 582. Mr. Gallagher is married and his son, Prince, Jr., is a star athlete at Jack Yates High School. —Sid Foto

---

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

INDUSTRY AND LABOR

OCT 19 1941

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

NEGRO UNION LABOR CAN BE PROTECTED

For many years several of the things that made Negro labor attractive to thousands of employers were the general assumptions that the Negro worker was strongly anti-union, that he was particularly fit for the unpleasant work which other workers did not want to do. There was also a strong assumption, but quite incorrect, that Negro workers were quite satisfied to work for less than other workers.

Today so many Negroes have joined the CIO, the AFL, or independent organizations in a general demand for higher pay, shorter hours and better working conditions that are rare indeed is the employer who believes any of the old assumptions about Negro labor. Indeed, if the Negro worker is to find work at all, he must do it on the basis of his ability to compete with other workers and on the basis of his right to be given an opportunity regardless of his color.

* * *

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPERATIVE

One heard a great deal about the displacement of Negro labor during the NRA when the whole problem was dramatized by the shooting of Negro railroad firemen, and when one heard a great deal about sending Negroes back to the farms. Few people realized that the danger of displacement of Negro labor by white is greater today than ever. If an employer should feel that we are not as competent as white workers, or if he should feel hesitant about hiring us for several well known reasons, little of the old assumptions remain to induce him to adopt a more favorable attitude toward us. The fact is, we can no longer sell Negro labor short. The situation demands strong, positive remedies.

OCT 19 1941

NEGROES IN CIO AND AFL SUPPLY ANSWER

Several developments in the Chicago area indicate some of the things which might be considered to deal with employers who go "sour" on Negro labor. In each of these instances a strong, aggressive labor organization, intelligently led, was the key to the solution.

Willard Smith, writing in the AFL's molders and foundry workers journal reports that when one white employer refused to hire a competent Negro molder which had been referred to him by the union, the molders' union cut off the whole labor supply for that employer. Needless to say there was an immediate change in the employer's attitude.

Lucius Love, president of the Wilson and Bennett local of the CIO's steel workers, proudly points to a clause in the union contract with the company which clause requires the employment of Negroes and whites in equal numbers. Many of the union members report that the company lost interest in Negro labor after the CIO organized its 1,000 employes and raised wages from 20 to 60 cents on the hour. The union also has a seniority clause in its contract, whose rigid enforcement has not only caused Negroes to be promoted to skilled work, but even to minor foreman positions. This is no small achievement when one remembers that his company is the only one in the tinware industry in Chicago that employs Negro labor.

OCT 19 1941

PUTTING IT IN WRITING

At the Valley Mold Corp., Joe Cook, president of a CIO union at an iron and steel company which has not hired a Negro to its force of 400 employes in 17 years is negotiating an agreement "to get the company to hire Negroes."

* * *

THE WHITE WORKER CAN BE WON

Best results along these lines have been achieved by Curtis Murray, president of a CIO union representing 300 employes of the Federated Metals branch of the American Smelting and Refining Co. After the company was forced to raise wages from 25 and 30 cents per hour to a minimum of 60 cents if steadfastly refused to hire Negroes.

When the company moved to an Indiana town in which Negroes did not live it made a determined effort to get rid of them. The Negroes with CIO representatives visited the mayor who let it be known he did not want Negroes in the town, union or no union. The company hired a white worker to replace every Negro that died or left the employ of the company for any reason.

OCT 18 1941

Meanwhile the Negroes under Murray's leadership hung on to their union, won over the white workers as fast as they were hired, insisted upon rigid observance of the union's contract. Result, the Negroes though in a minority now, occupy all the skilled and better paying jobs in the plant, recently got an increase of 10 cents on the hour.

Race relations in the union are among the best I have ever seen. Now even the white workers are demanding that the company change its policy and hire Negroes.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LABOR UNIONS AND DISCRIMINATIONS

While a strike legislation program is under consideration in Congress, and though we loathe the circumstances that usher such a program, particularly, under auspices none too friendly to labor, nevertheless, we believe it now propitious for Negro leaders to press their demand for equity in the ranks of the unions which have barred Negroes from membership.

DEC 6 1941

Instant pressure should be exerted on our representatives requesting their sponsorship of a non-discrimination clause to be incorporated into all legislations regulating labor unions. However, such a sorely needed clause should not be woven loosely into the body of legislative measures without providing adequate penalties. It should be stipulated that failure to comply with the provisions thereof would automatically withhold from the guilty unions the benefits of such labor legislations as:

1. National Labor Relations Act which guarantees labor's right to organize and to bargain collectively.
2. The Norris-La Guardia Act, a pre-New Deal law, designed to protect strikers against the injunction process of federal courts.
3. Unemployment compensation.

DEC 6 1941

Such a step we believe would force a change of attitude and rituals among the unions whose discriminatory policy has prevented some fair-minded industries from hiring Negro labor. This as we all know has resulted in the placing of many a qualified black man on public charity. No wonder the percentage of Negroes on relief is frightfully in excess of our population ratio.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Labor Leaders Warn Against "Cross-Fire"

DEC 1 - 1941

CHICAGO—(ANP) — Congressman Arthur Mitchell, who issued a statement last week appealing to Negro miners not to follow John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers in their proposed strike against working in the so-called "captive" mines, was attacked by labor leaders in the Chicago area last week. Most vocal of these was Willard Townsend, head of the red caps union and who was a candidate last election for congress in Mitchell's district.

Congressman Mitchell had said in his statement, "I call upon Negro miners in the captive mines and in other coal mines throughout the United States to stand loyally by this country and the government in this great crisis."

Congressman Mitchell had said in his statement, "I call upon Negro miners in the captive mines and in other coal mines throughout the United States to stand loyally by this country and the government in this great crisis."

ALL MINERS INVOLVED

DEC 1 - 1941

Townsend in his attack said, "Any such letter as you send should be addressed to the miners and not to Negro miners. Such an act on your part might perhaps destroy a most pleasant relationship between the races in the miner's union, which has been increasing over the years. It might again serve to cast upon our people the stigma of being strike breakers instead of supporters of trade union practices."

Other labor leaders in CIO, AFL, and unaffiliated unions whose leaders are associated with the Midwest Labor Service bureau sent a blistering protest to Mitchell condemning him for injecting the race issue in the captive mines dispute.

In a letter to Mitchell the Labor Service bureau, on behalf of its membership who are recognized leaders of thousands of workers residing in the congressional district represented by Mitchell, charged:

"This action which you advised the Negro miners to take, would again expose the Negro worker to the murderous cross-fire of organized capital and organizat ffi ized labor and the federal government would be helpless to protect him.

DEC 1 - 1941

"NO JUSTIFICATION"

"As a representative of all the people we see absolutely no justification on for your effort to make a public issue of placing the Negro miner in the delimma of having to choose between President Roosevelt and patriotism on one hand and John L. Lewis and 300,000 fellow miners on the other. A specific appeal to Negroes on this issue is irresponsible in the extreme. Your action injects a race issue where none exists. If your advice is sound, it should have been directed to all workers involved. not just Negroes."

The statement was signed by George F. McCray, director of the Midwest Labor Service bureau; W. S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employes union; .William Young, grievance chairman, Steel Workers Organizing committee; Leon D. Caruthers, Doc Williams of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing committee;; Leon D. Caruthers, general secretary of the Cook County Plumbers union; Robert Mitchell, B. B. Darden, Oscar Hutton and Henry Johnson, assistant director, United Mine Workers.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

"Who Shall Work, And Where"

NOV 29 1941

THERE is one aspect of the walkout by 500 United Automobile Workers at a Columbus (Ohio) airplane plant last week which warrants the serious consideration of every American who feels that he is enlisted in a fight to preserve democracy and freedom in this country.

The 500 UAW workers quit their jobs when they learned that a lone colored mechanic had been employed in the tool and die department. "The original issue," the workers and their leaders said, "was not whether Negroes would be employed, but how many would be employed and where they would work." This union objected to the employment of Negroes as skilled mechanics, insisting upon their use only in small numbers, in menial capacities and in small numbers segregated from white workers.

This is in stark reality the promulgation of a Hitlerian practice by organized labor, the one group that has benefited most—and stands to benefit still more—by a total defeat of what Hitler stands for.

NOV 29 1941

If the Dictators win the war, organized labor as it is known in America, would be abolished. They would not only lose their present right to organize and dictate the terms upon which they work, but they would lose their right to work as free men.

But the labor leaders have gotten the impression that they have a monopoly upon all gainful employment in the United States, and that they have the right to say who shall work, and where. One of their leaders expressed his power-drunk ideas by saying that in starting out to employ Negroes "someone in the Curtiss-Wright plant must be in the employ of Hitler."

It ought to be clear to President Roosevelt and to members of Congress that organized labor is getting a strangle-hold on this country that is heading it for a revolution. If organized labor expects to reenslave colored Americans the country may well look forward to conditions and developments akin to those that prevailed during the decade prior to 186[illegible]

NOV 29 1941

Regardless of the dictatorial designs of organized labor to freeze the Negro out of all skilled and remunerative employment and to set up conditions unfavorable to any employment by demanding segregation of Negro workers, a majority of the American people believe in the fundamental right of all men to be free and unmolested in their right to market their labor in whatever skills they possess and on whatever level of competency they are qualified to demonstrate.

The United Automobile Workers union is a CIO affiliate. Heretofore the Congress of Industrial Organization has displayed a rather liberal attitude in its relations to Negro workers. We hope the responsible heads of CIO will not join those of the American Federation of Labor in squeezing the American Negro down to the fixed level of menial laborer, with no hope of rising in the economic scale to a decent standard of living.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Negro Morale

SHOULD BE BOLSTERED BY FRANK STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT

DEC 20 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

DEC 20 1941

ORGANIZED LABOR has for some months been clamoring for more adequate representation on the groups who control and direct the defense efforts of the nation. This fight has been carried on by the A. F. L. and the C.I.O. but with the latter waging a much more energetic struggle. The defense program, so far pretty much under the control of the large industrial interests, has retained the big business point of view. With the coming of the war and the change in attitude of the CIO, the administration has softened a great deal in its attitude toward labor and, as a matter of fact, efforts are being made to woo labor and thus assure a national unity against any possible division.

Mr. Cayton

The AFL has already thrown in all of its support as has the CIO but the latter is still holding out for something of a deal. In return for uniting wholeheartedly in a common front for the war effort. Murray and the CIO are hoping to obtain a recess in congressional assaults on labor and more voice in the Government. As was stated by R. G. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers in a recent radio talk: "Give labor its share of responsibility, we say, and that will be worth mountains of printed propaganga; it will mean more than endless hours of exhortation. American labor does not need to be 'sold' on the need of fighting this war. It needs only the recognition which is its right in any democratic system."

BOTH the AFL and the CIO are attempting to convince the administration that a conference between employers and union officials is necessary.

RACE SEEKS REPRESENTATION

I think that this statement of the position of labor in this national crisis pretty well describes the position and problems of the Negro. As has been true with laboring groups, the Negro has been seeking for some time for some voice in the policy making bodies of the present administration. Just how inadequate has been his representation was stated in this column last week. Like labor, also, the Negro needs to feel that he is actually participating in the body politic of the nation if his morale is to be kept up, and it is our opinion that Negro morale at the moment is at a pretty low ebb.

DEC 20 1941

THe Negro, like the CIO, needs to make some sort of deal, and the administration should see the necessity for this and call together a conference of leaders in Washington and outline a program which will insure the Negro public of the returns which they will obtain from the wholehearted support of the national effort. As in the case of labor, again, if the Negro is given a share of responsibility and representation, it will do more than the "mountains of propaganda."

DEC 20 1941

MORALE IS LOW

Many persons might say that now is not the time to bother with confererences and that Negroes, like all other groups, should join in to crush the enemies of this country. That may all be true, but it also obvious to the casual observer that Negro morale is low and that something must be done to bolster it.

It is merely wishful thinking to talk about the Negro having always been loyal when we can see around us in any Negro community the frustrated, disorganized and cynical individuals who have been created by the disillusionment from the last war, ten years of depression and rank discrimination in the defense industries and in the armed forces of the coutry.

NEGRO morale is a tremendous problem,—not necessarily a hopeless one, but one which cannot be solved by ignoring it. No matter at what cost, the administration should now speak openly, frankly and forcefully to the Negroes in America and give them definite assurance and concrete facts to let them know that they too are Americans.

35i-1941
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

GENERAL

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

OUR EARLY POSITION THAT THE NLRB SHOULD BE CHANGED TO PROTECT NEGRO JOBS AND ABOLISH "JIM CROW" UNIONS IS BEING SUSTAINED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE AND NEGRO LEADERSHIP EVERYWHERE.

FEB 22 1941

In 1935, when I wrote in this column that if the Wagner Labor Bill would become law it would only prove a "Riddance Act" for the labor unions to rob the Negroes of their jobs, I was damned unpopular by some, a betrayer of labor and a tool for the bosses.

Now, six years later, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the most powerful organization in the world, issues the following statement from its New York office that **"Unless labor unions, which discriminate against Negroes, cease this practice, Negro workers will have no other recourse than to seek Congressional legislation to amend the National Labor Relations Act so as to deny such unions the rights of collective bargaining."**

The statement continued **"that American Negroes who are taxed to pay for employment because of union constitutions, clauses, and ritualistic practices or other devices are used to bat Negroes from crafts essential to National Defense."**

Realizing that the Wagner Labor Act was fraught with danger to destroy the whole economic structure of the Negro people in America, I, as president of the Texas Negro Business and Laboring Men's Association and editor of The Negro Labor News, appeared in the hearing before the Committee on Labor, House of Representatives, in the Seventy-Sixth Congress at Washington on July 5, 1939, and testified that the Wagner Labor Act would have to be amended in order that Negro workers might be protected and enjoy the rights of collective bargaining as other workers.

I, proposed the following amendments to the National Labor Relations Act:—

FEB 22 1941

First:—That the Labor Board to have no power to recommend, certify or designate any National labor organization, unit or sub-division thereof as the sole bargaining agency that have practices, customs or understandings that no person otherwise qualified, shall be a member thereof, who is not a member of the white race.

Second:—That in the event such organization has been certified as the sole bargaining agency on account of the majority so voted or otherwise determined, and, if by means discriminatory practices, the board shall recall its previous certification, upon hearing if such practices are found to be solely because of race.

These amendments and the testimony are found in Volume 4 of proposed amendments and hearings before the House Labor Committee, Page 1441.

Some of the leading papers today carrying the largest headlines about discrimination of labor unions failed to mention this incident or my appearance at Washington. The N. A. A. C. P., supposed to keep watch on Negro activities at Washington, never mentioned it in its releases nor have we received one word of comment after my sending a copy of the amendment to the national office. Many times I wonder if Negroes in the North and East do not feel that no good idea or suggestion can come from their brothers below the Mason-Dixon line.

Aside from my appearance before the House Committee at Washington in interest of Negro labor, as a representative of a small group of workers on the Texas and Pacific, I carried a lawsuit testing the color bar and discrimination in the Railway Carmen's union of the A. F. of L. to the United States Supreme Court with the law firm of Cobb, Howard and Hayes as legal aid.

While we techincally lost the suit, it paved the way for and inspired other railroad workers in Mississippi to bring suit to maintain seniority rights for Negroes on railroads. This suit is being handled by Charles W. Houston, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

These facts are recalled simply to inform Labor News readers of the fight this paper and its editor have put up for the rights of workers.

FEB 22 1941

I repeat a statement made previously and which has often brought much criticism, that is If Negroes desire to get more jobs and hold those they now have and enter into new fields they must cultivate a more friendly attitude toward the employing class. The unions are mostly using Negro labor votes, and influence to get the bargaining rights for workers in given plants.

After contracts are drawn in instances all too frequent, Negroes are kicked both off the jobs and out of the union.

AS I SEE IT, Walter White, dynamic secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., hopes to get the National Labor Relations Act changed so as to protect colored workers as he is proposing, he will certainly have to line up colored support behind that group of employers who are working hard to have the act changed for their protection. Labor, that is the CIO nor AFL is not interested in a change in the Act. Obviously these unions take the position that if any part of the law is changed, it will wreck the entire law.

The attitude of the CIO is expressed in as follows in reply to a letter I sent John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, July 21, 1939, seeking endorsement and support to changes in the Act as I had recommended to Congress. Lee Pressman, general counsel, speaking for Mr. Lewis, wrote:

FEB 22 1941

As you know, we have taken the position that we are opposed to any amendments to the Labor Act at this time. As to the specific amendments that have been proposed, other than by your organization, we feel that such amendments would tend to weaken and destroy the protection which labor now enjoys under the Act. Without going into the merits of the particular amendments which you propose, we certainly feel that if the Act is permitted to go to the floor of Congress with any suggested amendment the reactionaries in both the House and the Senate would not limit themselves to a consideration of our desired changes but would add their own emasculatory amendments.

For this reason we urge you not to recommend that any amendments, including yours, be favored at the present time.

Lee Pressman, General Counsel

CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Labor unions today have both the employing classes and Negro labor by the throat and unless some of these labor laws are changed, industries in America will become stagnant and grass and moss will grow up where factories once stood, and so far as Negroes are concerned they will be in a state, economically speaking, worse than human slavery.

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

NLRA Change Will Be Sought To Aid Negroes Unless Unions Stop Jim Crow

New York—Unless labor unions which discriminate against Negroes cease this practice, Negro citizens will "have no other recourse" than to seek Congressional legislation amending the National Labor Relations Act to deny such unions the rights of collective bargaining, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said in a statement issued here today.

FEB 21 1941

The statement was contained in a telegram sent to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor at Miami, Floirda, now in sssion. The NAACP called upon Green and the Federation Council to lead the way in breaking down these barriers within the ranks of the A. F. of L.

Negroes are effectively barred from airplane plants, the statement said because aeronautical workrs who have recieved charters from the Federation's international Association of Machinists, must abide by the union's constitution which bars Negroes from membership. The telegram urged the A. F. of L. Council meeting to "denounce such constitutional and other discrimination and to insist that its constituent unions abandon such practices. immediately."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cayton on Labor

SAYS NEGRO LABOR VOTE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

JAN 18 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

FOR the first time in the history of Presidntial elections the Negro labor vote was an important factor. How important a role it played, however, is hard to determine due to the fact that labor, and especially the left wing C.I.O. unions. were so badly split on partisan lines.

Some indication of the importance of the Negro vote in general and its "class conscious" orientation is available in material which was recently released by Harold F. Gosnell of the University of Chicago.

WAS SULLIVAN WRONG?

GOSNELL criticized the statement of Lawrence Sullivan concerning the Negro vote which was published in the October issue of the Atlantic Monthly. In that article Sullivan laid down four propositions in his prediction as to how Negroes would vote in the Presidential election: (1) the Negro vote would not be decisive in any state, (2) that a large number of Negroes would return to the Republican fold, (3) that three-fifths of the Negro vote in Chicago would be for Roosevelt, (4) that the Negro vote was influenced chiefly by relief in the past but that Negroes were getting tired of relief.

Mr. Cayton

GOSNELL, in his statement, felt that Sullivan had been wrong in each one of these propositions. Although Chicago's Negro vote has been nearly four-fifths Republican in the past, it was one-half Republican in the last election. Contrary to the white vote which tended to shift, to an extent, back to the Republican party, the Negro Democratic vote was 3 per cent higher in 1940 than it had been in 1936.

As far as relief influencing Negro voters, Gosnell felt doubtful that relief was the chief consideration in the minds of many Negroes.

QUOTES HENDERSON

He quotes Mr. Elmer Henderson (director of the Illinois State Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population and a former student of his), who found that the relationship between the Roosevelt vote and the percentage of persons on relief did not present a high positive correlation.

IN SOME of the districts which Henderson studied, 60 per cent of the Negro population was on relief but the vote was only 50 per cent Democratic. In summarizing his feeling about this relationship Gosnell stated, "It is useless to deny that the relief situation is not important in explaining the shifted Negro vote from the Republican to the Democratic party in the past eight years. However there are many other influences which are just as important."

OTHER INFLUENCES

Other influences which were brought out by Mr. Henderson's study were as follows:

1. Urbanization produces social and psychological changes in individuals and groups which tend to break down stereotyped and traditional allegiances.
2. Growing dissatisfaction with the Republican party because it did not grant gains to the group commensurate with the support given.
3. Changing attitude of the Democratic party—the Roosevelt administration was more liberal in its attitude toward Negroes than previous Democratic administrations.
4. Growing class-consciousness among Negroes—the increasing exposure of Negroes to the labor movement and radical propaganda.

IN ADDITION Gosnell adds: (5) As local administrations became Democratic, it was necessary for the Negro underworld to swing behind the Democratic machines or go out of business.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS

The point of interest to persons concerned with problems of labor is the development of "class-consciousness" among Negroes due to their more recent exposure to organized labor (the fourth point raised by Henderson). Since the New Deal, thousands of Negroes have been recruited into various industrial unions.

In the Chicago area, for example, the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee has organized all the plants with the exception of "little steel" and Negroes are playing a vital and important role in the management of these union locals. Though not as successful as has been the S.W.O.C., the Packing House Workers Industrial Union also has recruited many Negroes and until recently had a Negro as assistant national director of the organization.

THERE are numerous other C.I.O. and A.F. of L. unions that have recently entered the picture and secured a Negro following. A very unusual example is the semi-legal "cow-boy" cab drivers on the South side of Chicago, who have joined a C.I.O. transportation union. During the hey-day of the W.P.A., thousands of Negroes received some introduction to union organizations and union principles through the Office and Professional Workers' Union, a C.I.O. affiliate.

TROUBLES BROADCAST

Membership in these organizations has been an educational process for these Negro workers not only in trade union practices but in sensitizing them to the large and more fundamental, economic, and political issues which face the country.

They have been, to an extent, the institutions which have reorientated the thinking of many of these workers by explaining their own difficulties as members of an exploited race and class in terms of the broader social and economic forces operating in the larger society.

THE confusion which existed among Negro laborers in the past election is but a reflection of the confusion in the general labor movement. This, in some instances, leads to unusual and extraordinarily complex political situations Most of the A.F. of L. unions and the C.I.O. supported Roosevelt.

The left wing vote of the C.I.O., and the political left wing in general, tended to either support Willkie or to characterize both candidates as being equally unacceptable. Henry Johnson, assistant director of the Packing House Workers Union first came out for Roosevelt and then for Willkie.

CLASS ANGLE STRESSED

The important point, however, was not that Negroes voted Republican or Democratic, for it is difficult to determine in many instances just where this labor vote did go. The fact that interests us most is that the Negro labor vote, based upon a rising feeling of "class consciousness," expressed a rational attempt to direct their political activities in terms of what to them seemed their own self-interest as an occupational group.

Negro laborers seemed to be becoming aware of the fact that they were laborers as well as Negroes and that often the "class angle" of their existence might over-weigh or at least equal the "racial angle."

IN STUDYING over the election returns, it would seem to us that this point of Henderson's can hardly be over-emphasized, for it presages the development of a new trend of political thinking on the part of Negroes. One cannot attribute a definite percentage of votes to either candidate on the basis of their attractiveness as individuals or on the grounds that they had made certain appointments of a few select Negroes to well-paying positions.

It is impossible to determine how effective as vote catching mechanisms were Bill Robinson's clog dancing, or Joe Louis' oratorical flights, in the final analysis.

One can, however, recognize the development of a new way of thinking on the part of large masses of the Negro population and realize that, for the most part, this is connected with the growing body of Negro workers who have been connected with the organized labor movement and are developing their political orientation from trade union organizations rather than the job-holding, Lincoln-shouting, political hacks of the past.

35i-1941 GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Labor Conflicts

ONE USES FRIENDSHIP TO EXPLOIT; OTHER SEEKS TO ASSIST

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

TWO totally different attitudes toward the participation of Negroes in the trade union movement have come to me in the morning mail. They presented such an interesting contrast that I have decided to pass them on to you.

The first letter came from a white student and wife of a minor union official in the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks. Her letter was written in refutation to an article which I wrote showing how Negroes under the jurisdiction of this union were not allowed to become members of the union, were not allowed to attend union meetings, were assessed dues without representation and were kept in a "captured" colored auxiliary.

Mr. Cayton

The lady states:

. . . If you will inquire among the liberal, student-minded white members of organized labor, you will readily learn that Mr. Geo. M. Harrison is known to be a man of both personal and professional integrity. These attacks on him personally by the colored press may be understandable because of the intense feeling within that group toward any form of 'Auxiliary' within Americana; but they are just not honest nor fair. Mr. Harrison does not own the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. In the last analysis, he is a salaried employee. The 'Auxiliary' was formed as a result of convention action. If you are attempting an attack on Mr. Phil E. Ziegler, second officer of the organization then you are in the position of one who bites a hand that has fed him. It would require very little inquiry to learn that . . . he fought at every corner in behalf of all underprivileged Americans—fought not when it was considered quite socially proper as it is today; but when one spoke for those who could not speak in their own behalf was considered far beyond the social pale.

SEEKS TO AID

THE second letter comes from the California C. I. O. Maritime Commission and relates to the National seaman's unity convention called by the National Maritime Union in conjunction with the West Coast seamen to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. In writing to a union official in the east an official of the West Coast seamen stated:

I am pleased to hear that the resolution met with your approval and that it will be possible to hold a caucus on the problems of Negro seamen at the coming convention. This can be a big step forward and can serve as a model for other international unions in handling this question. I feel that the frank discussion on the matter, in the way that I know it will be discussed, as well as the possibility of laying down a basic principle around the matter, can be one of the major accomplishments of the convention. The attention of thousands of Negroes throughout the country can be brought to bear on the convention with the minimum amount of work.

The resolutions which were adopted calling for the caucus were as follows:

Whereas: On July 7th, 1941, the National Seamen's Unity Convention, called by the National Maritime Union, will meet and, in conjunction with the West Coast seamen, will map out a program for the American seamen, and

Whereas: This will be the greatest convention of seamen in the history of the industry, and

Whereas: There are many Negro seamen on both the East and West Coast who have received many gains and advantages as a result of being members of organized labor, but who still do not enjoy complete equal rights within the industry and who have many grievances, and

Whereas: The ship owners have always adopted a policy of attempting to split and divide the white seamen from the Negro seamen so that one group could be used against the other, and as a result of this policy have instigated and promoted race prejudice and mistrust among the seamen, now therefore be it

Resolved: That we the below listed members of the M. C. & S. Union, in order to combat these shipowner tactics and to bring greater understanding on this question, hereby go on record endorsing the national unity convention in Cleveland, and call upon the Negro members of our organization, as well as the white brothers, to cooperate to the utmost to make the convention a success, so that the problems of the Negro seamen can be taken up and a national policy adopted on this question, and be it further

Resolved: That we call to the attention of the Negro brothers of our organization the necessity of helping to raise funds and attending the convention, so that they can help to work out, among other problems of the seamen, a policy of equal rights and opportunities for Negro seamen."

FIGHT THE FIRST, SUPPORT THE SECOND

THERE you have two attitudes on the Negro. One where the personal friendliness of officials is used as a rationalization for the continued subordination and exploitation of the Negro. The other where every attempt is made to discuss and deal with the Negro in an honest and straightforward fashion. It is the duty of not only Negroes, but all interested in a genuine union movement to fight the first type and support the latter type of union organization.

JUN 14 1941

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

BEST EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

NEGRO ACTIVITY IN LABOR UNIONS

In the present progress being made by labor organizations, Negro workers are playing an increasingly active role, especially in the CIO and this is as it should be. If Negro workers expect to receive full benefits and advantages as members of labor organizations, it is essential that they make themselves a dynamic part of the unions with which they are affiliated, by attending the meetings of their locals and actively participating in their deliberations, elections and other organizational activities.

By seeking membership on union committees, also by supporting Negroes for election as officials in locals, as shop stewards and other positions, Negro members of labor organizations will receive greater benefits and recognition from labor unions and more consideration from industrial leaders than we have in the past

Progressive Negro members of unions are aware of this fact and many of them are efficiently serving on important committees. Two of these colored representatives, John Corbett, president of Local No. 285 of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America, Cio, and Arthur [illegible], member of the Resolution committee, attended the recent Labor's Non-Partisan league in Detroit, at which time they introducted two resolutions in interest of the race, which were adopted by the league.

One of the resolutions, in interest of supporting a Negro candidate for Common Council, reads as follows:

"Whereas: it is the expressed policy of Labor's Non-Partisan League to fight discrimination against minority groups, and

"Whereas: ninety-eight per cent of the 1[illegible]0,000 Negroes in Detroit are working men and women, and

"Whereas: this large section of our population has no representation in City Government, and now

"Therefore be it resolved: that this convention of Labor's Non-Partisan League go on record in favor of endorsing a qualified Negro candidate for the Common Council of the City of Detroit in the coming election, providing that a candidate with sufficient political potentiality becomes available."

The resolution was adopted, also another demanding that more opportunity be given Negroes in defense work.

This type of activity on the part of Negro members of unions is essential. It is not enough simply to be members of labor unions. Negro workers must be active in their union locals and help share policies, in order to still further open industrial opportunities to members of the race. — DETROIT TRIBUNE.

JUL 4 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Over-Organized

CAYTON BELIEVES BUSINESS MEN ARE OVERLOOKING MARKET

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

THE constant complaint that one hears in regards to Negroes is that they cannot be organized. My experience indicates that the difficulty is that Negroes are over organized, belong to too many clubs, social organizations and the like—most of them socially and economically useless. Certainly when we examine the mass organizations we find that the church represents the largest group of organized Negroes in the country. Neither the Urban League nor the N.A.A.C.P. have been able to achieve anything like the mass following which the Garvey movement, the only important Negro mass movement has achieved. The only other mass movement, that of the support of Negro business, has little following and has achieved nothing like an organizational structure which would make it a potent force in the Negro community.

Mr. Cayton

NEGRO TRADE UNIONS

Knowing the inability of Negroes to organize themselves into effective groups, it has always struck me as peculiar that Negro leaders and business men have not seized upon Negro trade unions as a group to which they could sell their services and commodities. Certainly the business men have exploited to the fullest the possibilities which the church offers.

IT IS amazing in some Chicago churches to find around the walls of the building advesrtisement of the leading Negro undertaking establishments, barber shops, and notion stores. I do not write this in condemnation of this practice, nor do I fail to see the virtues which the organization Negro business may have. Rather I am attempting to point out that wherever lots of Negroes get together in a group, business men have always tried to attempt to exploit them commercially. The old lodges, the newer fraternities, church picnics, and even funerals are used by the Negro business men to labor their message. All such occasions are used in an effort to build up a market for Negro goods and services.

POTENTIAL MARKETS

The thing that amazes me is that this relatively large field of Negro trade unionists has not been solicited by Black business. It would be difficult to give offhand the total number of Negroes in the trade union movement throughout the United States. But to just indicate a few examples, there are over thirty thousand Negroes in the steel industry, most of whom are members of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. There are probably twenty thousand Negroes who are employed in the meat packing industry, many of whom are or will be organized with Packing House Industrial Union, and there are 15,000 Negro workers in the Ford plant alone who have become members of the United Automobile Workers. The potential market which this group of organized Negroes constitute is one which should not be overlooked by business men anxious to create good will and secure a market for their goods and services.

IF WE would take, for example, the Negro newspapers. Why, some Negro newspapers have not recognized the situation and adopted a platform and policy which would find favor with Negro union men and go after this group on the basis of a circulation issue, I cannot understand. Hitherto, Negro papers have tended to reflect the life, doings, and the philosophy of the small Negro upper class which constitute for the most part Negro professional workers, civil service employees and aspiring Red Caps who have been exposed to colleges. It was not until relatively recent years that Negro newspapers attempted to follow the methods of the white papers and get mass circulation and thereby obtain more advertising. It is my contention that at the present time Negro newspapers are still behind the times in that they have not seized this nucleus of already organized Negro workers as a potential market for their paper and thus run up their circulation.

NONE HAS TRIED IT

The beauty about the situation is that no paper has attempted and the first paper to step into the field with a frankly labor policy could automatically capture the attention of Negro trade unions throughout the country. The newspaper at the same time would antagonize no one but a small group of professional men who, ofttimes, are too proud and self-conscious to even read a Negro paper. The method of approaching this market would be relatively simple. Each local union of each International could become a distribution point for the entire membership of the union.

I AM NOT asking the Negro newspapers to be race conscious or even class conscious. I am simply suggesting this as a circulation issue. If I were the editor of my paper I would buy a car and send a competent reporter to every important city in the United States to make contact with union men, to tell them about the labor policy which I was going to embark upon, and to request their cooperation in obtaining news and in distributing papers. I think it would work. I think it would mean two important things. First, it would make possible the development of a stronger paper—a Negro newspaper reaching the masses of the Negro population, and second, it would bring to these people more news about things that are of vital importance to them. The paper which is wise enough to see this opportunity and to exploit its possibilities will be, in my opinion, the leader in the field of Negro journalism.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PICKET THE UNIONS

CAYTON SUGGESTS NOVEL IDEA TO GAIN NEEDED RECOGNITION

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

LAST week I started to write a series of articles on how to organize unions in six easy lessons. I hasten to interject, however, that the method of approach and the problems involved in organizing Negroes in the A. F. of L. craft union and the CIO industrial unions differs. At present I am dealing with the A. F. of L. But back to the first lesson.

Last week I attempted to point out that the Negroes in the building trades in Chicago who were refused membership in their large white locals had formed small bargaining units of their own. Later these various small units of Negro mechanics got together in Chicago and formed a Consolidated Trades organization so that each could help the other in mobilizing Negro public opinion and in bringing pressure on the white locals for admittance and employment.

Mr. Cayton

THE point I am trying to make this week is that organization on a national scale by these city "federations" will hasten the eventual inclusion of Negroes in craft unions. Just as the consolidation of the various small Negro bargaining units into one organization of all Negro building trades workers was helpful in Chicago, so would be a national organization of these same workers. Paralleling the organization of the white building trades councils which exist in every city and on a national scale, the Negro building trades councils would locally and nationally mobilize the Negro public and bring pressure on the local and national white organizations.

TOWNSEND'S GROUP

A good example of the kind of organization I have in mind is that of the United Transport Service Employes of America headed by Townsend. Just as in the building trades the Negro workers in most branches of the railroad industry are in too small bargaining units to be very effective. Consequently the white brotherhoods have been successful in pushing them out of the industry for the most part. Last week in The Courier, A. E. White listed 10 railroad unions which, by constitutional provision, barred Negroes from membership. With union membership for the most part denied them these Negro railroad workers have been subject to a lot of pushing around by both the management and the unions and they have been too weak in any particular branch of the industry to protect themselves. The most vicious and calloused expression of the ruthless manner in which white union members have attempted to limit the competition of Negro workers is to be found in the slaughter of numbers of Negro firemen who have seniority and cannot otherwise be displaced.

REALIZING that the only possible method of protecting these Negro workers scattered throughout the industry is by some "overall" organization of them, Willard Townsend of the United Transport and Service Employees Association has organized various groups of the employes of the Florida East Coast railroad. In one organization the following locals have been gathered: Red Caps, Local 810, Train Porters Local 201, Trackmen's Local 202, Trackmen's Local 206, Locomotive Firemen's Local 203, Baggagemen's Local 204 and Hose-cutters Local 205. Work at present is concentrated on the Florida East Coast Railroad for it is the last surviving large railroad to employ a large percentage of Negro workers. From this starting point, undoubtedly, the organization will extend its activities to other roads.

SELF-EVIDENT

That this form of organization will be more powerful in representing these small groups of Negroes whose numbers do not make them powerful bargaining units in any craft or division of the industry is self-evident. There is no reason why one should predict any immediate success, but certainly this is the only step which is logical to take in the situation.

IT seems to me that I could suggest an entire program of action for these groups—both the building trades group and the railroad workers—after they have perfected a national organization of some strength. However, as the organization, at least of the railroad workers, seems in competent hands, I will suggest only one small project for these to-be-formed national unions. If I were directing the affairs of a national organization the members of which were refused membership by the nations and internationals of the A. F. of L., I would at the time of the national conference of, say the steamfitters, or the railroad clerks, establish a picket line around the meeting place.

CARRY BANNERS

I would have Negro steamfitters and members of the Negro freight handlers group carry banners and set up a picket line through which the good white brothers would have to walk. I would have news photographers from the white and Negro press and newsreel men take photographs of them walking through the picket line—and I would have a good "goon squad" of Negroes to handle the paid hoodlums of these unions who might want to break up the picket line.

AUG 9 1941

35i-1941

GENERAL

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

More Than 100 Shots Are Fired

APR 3 1941

Many Colored Workers Strike At Ford Site

HARLAN, Ky.—(SNS)—At least one colored man was killed among the four men shot to death and five wounded Wednesday at the Crummies Creek Coal Company mine in a violent outburst of gunplay in the Harlan County bituminous coal fields.

APR 3 1941

According to reports, the shooting occurred as groups of United Mine Workers of America (C.I.O.) members roamed about the county holding impromptu rallies at closed mines. More than 100 shots were fired during the disorder, it was stated.

BRICKS, BOLTS HURLED AT FORD MOTOR STRIKE

DETROIT—(SNS)—Violence between the striking and non-striking portions of the 85,000 men employed at the Ford Motor Companys huge River Rouge plant reached serious proportions Wednesday as clubs were swung and bricks and bolts flung through miles of streets. A large number of the workers employed at the plant is colored.

The C. I. O. called the strike Tuesday night, charging "deliberate provocation" by the Ford management. Several workers had won re-instatement in position and pay at the plant in a Supreme Court decision against the Ford Company.

APR 3 1941

Between thirty and forty strikers were treated for injuries following encounters

---

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

SECRETARY PERKINS RETRACTS STATEMENT ON RED CAPS TO PLEASE 'LILY-WHITE' UNION

APR 11 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Secretary of Labor Perkins has done an about face in the running dispute between the lily-white Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the United Transport Service Employes of America (Red Caps).

APR 11 1941

On January 2, she wrote Robert F. Cole, secretary of the National Mediation board here, advising 'there is merit to their (Red Caps) claim to participate in the selection of labor members of the National Railroad Adjustment Board."

Acting upon this letter, Mr. Cole under date of February 11, notified the members of the National Mediation board to appoint a board of three to consider the claim of the Red Caps.

Writes Protest

Immediately after this letter was issued, George M. Harrison, grand president of the lily-white Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and recently - appointed member of the super-mediation board by President Roosevelt, wrote a vigorous protest to Secretary Perkins denying that there was a dispute between his union and the Red Caps, and denying that the Red Caps had any claim to consideration whatsoever.

APR 11 1941

As a result of the Harrison letter, Secretary Perkins wrote again to the National Mediation board stating, "I should like to withdraw this letter (January 2) pending a further investigation, and shall be glad to have your acknowledgement of this request." At the same time, Miss Perkins wrote George Harrison stating that the whole matter had been handled by Assistant Secretary of Labor McLaughlin; but "to make certain that a full investigation is made and that the correct procedure has been followed, I am writing Mr. Cole, asking him to withdraw the letter of January 2."

Interpret Action

The action of Secretary Perkins is interpreted to mean that she has been bulldozed by Harrison into supporting his side of the argument against the Red Caps union, which is fighting for its life against the greatest possible opposition.

Until the Red Caps union was formed, Harrison's union exhibited no interest in the welfare of the Red Caps whatsoever. The Harrison union has a clear statement in its constitution providing that ony "white males" are eligible for membership.

APR 11 1941

But as soon as the Red Caps, under President Willard S. Townsend of Chicago, began to gain members and some little strength, Harrison stepped in, claiming jurisdiction over the Red Caps, offering them, not membership in the union, but an auxiliary jim crow charter under full control of his union. This jim crow charter gives the Red Caps no power whatsoever; they cannot attend conventions, introduce resolutions, vote, or have anything to say about their wages, hours, and working conditions.

All these matters will be left in the hands of "white father" Harrison.

APR 11 1941

As evidence of Harrison's true attitude, the Red Caps cite a letter which he wrote December 31, 1940, to John R. Hoskins, of Oakland, Cal., in which he said: "Jurisdiction over railroad station employes belongs to this brotherhood.... frankly the thing for you to do is to get into this organization and discontinue arguing about what has passed, or what your status may be. We have no intention of revising our constitution and laws to meet the views of any group of people who are not in affiliation."

President Townsend, of the Red Caps organization, left here April 5, to consult with Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, in New York on cooperation of the N.A.A.C.P. in support of the Red Caps' fight. The N.A.A.C.P. has sent $100 as a contribution toward legal expenses in cases now being carried on by the Red Caps.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Labor Strikes, The Negro And National Defense

APR 10 1941

Serious and ever-increasing labor strikes over the country, a source of definite alarm to the nation in general and the Negro in particular, have assumed proportions of huge magnitude at Ford's River Rouge and Lincoln plants. Word has come that a great many Negro strike-breakers are involved, and it is well known, of course, that many Negroes are already employed in the Ford plants. "P. M.," New York daily says: "Negro leaders and labor leaders alike fear the strike issue may become a race issue.

APR 10 1941

The matter that gives us greatest concern, of course, is that the whole national defense program is being retarded by these strikes which are becoming so general and which are becoming a definite threat to governmental control. It is freely predicted that President Roosevelt must take immediate action lest these labor disputes get entirely out of control. Neither labor or management can at this time charge the President with undue interference, but it is clear that public opinion is growing impatient with both labor and industrial heads who refuse to come to terms in these disagreements. Men are conscripted to serve in the army at $21.00 per month, while laborers, who are making $200.00 per month are on strike for higher wages.

APR 10 1941

But what comes closer home to us is the fact that Negroes, who have been systematically denied employment in many of the basic industries, are now "between the devil and the deep blue sea" in this whole labor situation. If already within the unions—in some areas and industries they are members in large numbers —they are forced out of employment by the strikes; on the other hand, if they attempt to work as strike-breakers, they will be mobbed and blacklisted, with no opportunity to work after the strikes are settled, for they will then not be permitted to join the unions.

We trust that Negro leaders of labor and other interested organizations will exert all possible influence to get Negroes to take the safest and sanest course in these situations so that the chances for future employment and other unhappy results may be reduced to a desirable minimum.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

PLANE PLANT JOBS OPENED TO NEGROES

WASHINGTON, May 15—(ANP)—Crashing all fronts of the airplane manufacturing industry, Negroes are beginning to be considered in these plants for jobs with indications that within a very short time, they will be working in three huge plants.

MAY 1941

On Wednesday night, Lieut. Lawrence Oxley of the United States Unemployment service left for Buffalo where he was called by the Curtis Wright company to offer for them the personnel which they plan to recruit among Negroes. Lieut. Oxley was especially asked for by this firm.

MAY 18 1941

Enroute to Kansas, where the great hue and cry arose on the airplane plant refusal to engage Negroes, went Dr. Ira DeA Reid to consult with officials there with reference to putting Negroes in the training courses in the Kansas schools with further reference to putting them to work. Some 50 Negroes are being considered for this first effort.

Up in Hartford, Conn., Pratt and Whitney are thumbing the idea and according to information close to the official sources, it is believed they are ready to capitulate and engage Negro workers in their plant.

Although the source asked that information be given the public, the person was especially anxious that his name not be connected with the story although there is every reason to believe that the facts speak for themselves and these federal officials are enroute to their various tasks which will open new opportunities for Negro youths and men, trained in the mechanics of airplane manufacture.

MAY 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Unity for Higher Wages
Negro Discrimination Splits Our Ranks

From hundreds of railroad lodges all over the country comes the demand for a general wage increase and for special adjustments of rates of pay on underpaid jobs—to do away with coolie wages among large sections of railroad workers.

This column has carried plenty of figures to show increased cost of living, increased profits of railroad bankers, increased productivity of railroad workers, and increased earnings of workers in other basic industries. All these are good and sufficient arguments why a man-sized increase in wages is due (in fact, overdue) on the railroads. In addition to a 20-cent to 50-cent per hour general increase, we need a 72½-cent per hour basic minimum wage in the railroad industry (as has been proposed in Shop Craft programs), which would at one sweep wipe out the thousands of low and unequal rates which are crying for adjustment.

From every standpoint, Negro rail workers are most in need of wage adjustments and pay increases; and they are bound to be a big factor in the present industry-wide movement of the rank and file to improve wages and working conditions.

Sub-Standard Wages for Negro (and White) Rail Workers

In 1938 (latest figures available) there were some 145,000 Negroes in the various branches of the railroad industry, employed as shop laborers, track workers, freight handlers, Pullman porters, red caps, dining car cooks and waiters, car cleaners and — in the South — as brakemen and firemen. 78,155 worked year-round, while the others are shown by Railroad Retirement Board (1938) figures as employed in from one to eleven months of the year. So at any given time there are probably some 100,000 Negroes working on the roads.

These Negro rail workers are among the lowest paid groups, some 40,000 — along with some 30,000 white workers — being covered by the miserable 33 cents to 36 cents minimum wages established for railroads March 1, 1941, under the Fair Labor Standards Act. (The Railroad Labor Executives' Association, called this a victory!)

The same Retirement Board figures quoted above, place average earnings of all full-time Negro railroad employees at about $85.00 per month — with average earnings for all Negroes, full and part-time, shown as $660.00 per year, or $55.00 per month. YES, NEGRO RAILROAD WORKERS NEED A WAGE INCREASE AND WILL FIGHT TO GET IT!

With the lowest wages in the industry, Negroes also have to contend with the fact that they are denied seniority rights in many cases to bid for better paid jobs, while many classes of work are barred to Negroes — FOR SHAME — by agreement between managements and union committees. A halt must be demanded to this collusion — for denying seniority rights to Negroes threatens the whole principle of seniority for railroad labor.

Racial Discrimination—A Danger and a Disgrace

From the standpoint of human fairness and democratic principles, this is a disgraceful condition. From the standpoint of rail labor in general it is a harmful and dangerous condition. Yet, it is our Standard Railroad Labor Organizations who make this condition possible through constitutional clauses barring Negroes from membership. We must demand that these clauses be removed from the rail union constitutions.

Negro Pullman Porters and dining car employees are organized in A. F. of L. unions but are denied affiliation with the Railway Employees' Department of the A. F. of L., and with the Railway Labor Executives' Ass'n. Red caps and freight handlers have been forced by the Jim-Crow policies of the Grand Chiefs to organize independent unions, as have various groups of Negro rail workers in the South.

If we railroad workers, Negro and white, really mean to get what is coming to us we must do away with racial discrimination. Fascism, Nazism and the other forms of terroristic dictatorships by financial overlords are all based on the doctrine of "Divide and Conquer." We cannot afford to play into the hands of those who are denying us a living wage, vacations with pay and decent working conditions, by permitting Negro discrimination to divide our ranks.

The question of doing away with Negro discrimination cannot be detached from the general need for a drastic shake-up in our rail labor organizations. Boy, what a gush of new life would come into our rail unions with the affiliation and cooperation of 100,000 militant Negro workers! The CIO unions show that. With the growth of that kind of democracy, we would begin to write more democracy for all of us into our Brotherhood constitutions, to the end that the rank and file have the right to breathe without asking Grand Lodge permission.

Fight Discrimination—For Progress and Higher Wages

Progressive trade unionism—with the better wages and conditions to be gained thereby—can pretty well be measured by the extent that unity between Negro and white workers within an industry is accomplished. The CIO wage increases and other gains in steel, coal, packinghouse, etc., which are so much envied by rail workers, were only achieved by uniting all workers, Negro and white, into one union in each industry. And that's what we need.

The so-called auxiliaries and limited membership schemes being pushed in some rail unions are shameful and unsatisfactory substitutes for real organizational unity of Negro and white workers. We will find that the same union officials who want to retain the split between Negro and white are also the soft-soap boys who don't want the rank and file to take any action of wage increases.

At this time when the rank and file and local lodges are getting together in wage-increase conferences and mass meetings, let's be sure that Negro and white sit down together and plan how we can win improved wages and working conditions. Then let us "stand up," side by side, and take militant action to eliminate bad conditions which affect so many workers of both races.

* * *

Brother Railroaders: Following is a list of Stop, Look and Listen columns reprinted and now available for distribution at 50 cents per hundred:

1. CIO Gets Wage Increases — What's Wrong With Our R. R. Unions?
2. Conditions of Railroad Workers Must Be, etc., etc. (then include the balance of the listed columns, including Foster's pamphlet, as last week).

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Labor And Industry

(By George F. McCray for ANP)

THE LABOR-SOUTH CIVIL WAR NOT A WHITE FOLKS FIGHT. UNION NEGRO CO-OPERATION FOR DEMOCRACY

In the congress of the United States last week, the C. I. O. and the A. F. L. won another impressive victory in the long civil war between the south and the organized labor movement. The fight centered around a house vote on a conference report approving the revised Connally amendment to the Selective Service act. This amendment as passed by the senate and very slightly modified in conference, would, in the opinion of Bill Green of the A. F. L. "impose a condition of involuntary servitude upon labor."

Phil Murray of C. I. O. charged the legislation "is not intended to exercise any compulsion upon management, but only against labor." Thus the A. F. L. and the C. I. O. attained an effective degree of unity on a matter affecting their mutual interests.

After various representatives had been properly "buttonholed" by labor spokesmen, the house smashed the attack on the unions by a vote of 255 to 114. Republicans, Democrats voted against the measure.

When the results of the contest were announced, Rep. Martin Dies stated: "Now that the Republicans have gone over to the C. I. O. maybe I better start investigating 'em."

NOT JUST A WHITE FOLKS FIGHT

To many Negroes, north and south, the struggle over the revised Connally amendment to the Selective Service act will seem like a "white folks" fight in which the darker brother has little interest. But as a matter of fact, the fight strikes at the very root of our political and economic problems in the south.

AUG 25 1941

An analysis of the vote revealed that 72 of 78 representatives from southern states having poll tax restrictions on the right to vote, were in favor of the legislation to place labor "in involuntary servitude." It is not mere coincidence that in the states which sent these men to congress, Negroes enjoy, as a matter of right, few of the privileges and immunities of American citizenship.

UNIONS AND NEGROES IN SAME BOAT

These men and the industrial, commercial, and plantation powers they represent are bitterly opposed to unions for the same reason they disfranchise Negro and poor white labor in the south. They want an almost absolute control over the labor force in their districts.

These same men and the unions know that this control is safe so long as workers in these areas are not able to vote. Likewise every Negro in the south with the brain of an ant knows that the fight for civil liberties, better education, public sanitation, health facilities, housing, and the very security of life and property depend upon our winning the right to vote.

THE CHURCHILL-STALIN GET-TOGETHER

Our right to vote will come only when the American people with our help insist upon equality of suffrage in the United States. The trade unions, particularly the C. I. O. are in the forefront of this fight. It should be no more difficult to make common cause with the C. I. O. and the A. F. L. than it was for a Tory government in England to make common cause with Communist Russia. We too are fighting for our lives.

35i-1941
Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

GENERAL

A COFFIN FOR LABOR

Last night at midnight an estimated 330,000 men quit work on the defense of the United States.

APR 1 - 1941

They quit at the direction of John L. Lewis. They may go back to work Wednesday. They might not choose to go back to work for a month or more.

But one thing is certain. If they are not voluntarily back at work before the end of this week, then organized labor as it is known today will be as dead as a dodo. The cause of death: suicide.

These 330,000 men are coal miners. Their leader is an ex-coal miner.

When the stores of coal begin to dwindle, a dozen key defense industries will begin slowing down. No iron could be produced, railroads would be worse than useless, and the whole fantastic picture of the United States conquered without a shot being fired will be complete. Adolf Hitler has confided to his intimates that such will be the manner in which the United States will be conquered.

Adolf is wrong. The United States will not be conquered so easily if at all. Those self-seeking elements in the United States upon whom Adolf counts so heavily for support, will be knocked out of their positions of power long before the United States as a nation is seriously damaged.

In only two nations are there today free, autonomous organizations of labor. The sorry record of what happened to labor in Russia, Germany, Italy, and all the nations blighted by the savage strength of the unprincipled aggressors should stand as a clear argument against the very thing that is taking place in the United States today.

APR 1 - 1941

But there are so-called labor leaders in the United States who are so dim-witted that they cannot perceive that truth. There are certainly some who deny that truth because of the magic of thirty pieces of silver. There are many so-called labor leaders who deserve a traitor's pay and are too foolish to even collect it.

This is a high order of lack of leadership. The common workingman making up the rank and file of labor does not share the selfish disaffection manifest in the actions of some of his leaders.

John L. Lewis has long voiced his unbending opposition to the foreign policy adopted by the United States. John L. Lewis promised this strike in the vital coal industry months ago.

How could Mr. Lewis have known that negotiations would be futile long before they even started? His apparent clairvoyance was nothing more than an expression of his will not to let the negotiations be successful.

John L. Lewis is a corrupt cur. He is a traitor to his country in the pay of his own ego.

APR 1 - 1941

That is a serious charge. It is not made lightly for rhetorical effect.

The most precious resource at the command of the United States at present is TIME. It is being gleefully thrown away in prodigious handfuls by a man responsible to no democratic check in the hands of the citizens of this nation. John L. Lewis does not answer for his actions except to his own conscience. Yet he has vast power in the matter of when and how this country shall use its strength.

John L. Lewis's conscience dictates that he risk, if not actually promote, the defeat of this nation at arms, the death of the democratic principle here and everywhere else.

John L. Lewis is not a good American. He is no better American than Adolf Hitler.

The question of merit or lack of merit of the miner's side in this quarrel with management is not under review here. That is to be discussed and settled by the responsible experts representing the interests involved.

APR 1 - 1941

The important thing is that the miners must work while the negotiations are being carried out. Management must also work while they are being carried out.

John L. Lewis, traitor to the United States in the pay of his own ego, is today hard at work shaping a coffin for all of labor's gains since 1800. He might drive the last nail in it if left unmolested at his self-appointed job.

Only the rank and file of labor can tear the tools from his hands and from the hands of others like him.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Colored Workers Barred From Labor Unions Must Lead Fight For Justice

APR 10 1941

A BILL prohibiting any Kansas labor union from acting as a collective bargaining agent for its members if it "discriminates against, or bars, or excludes from its membership any person because of his race or color" has been signed by Governor Payne Ratner.

This Kansas law is important because it goes to the very heart of discrimination by labor unions. If enforced properly, any labor union which excludes any person from membership on account of "race or color" will not be permitted to act as the collective bargaining agent for its members. Without this power a labor union would be as powerless as a toothless kitten.

The all-powerful Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act, which gives tremendous powers to organized labor, has a provision which would, if enforced, make labor organizations which discriminate against persons on account of race or color powerless.

APR 10 1941

The Pennsylvania Act contains this significant provision in the definition of "labor organization": "The term 'labor organization' means any organization of any kind, or agency or employee representation committee or plan in which employees participate, and which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work, BUT SHALL NOT INCLUDE ANY LABOR ORGANIZATION WHICH, BY RITUALISTIC PRACTICE, CONSTITUTIONAL OR BY-LAW PROSCRIPTION, BY TACIT AGREEMENT AMONG ITS MEMBERS, OR OTHERWISE, DENIES A PERSON OR PERSONS MEMBERSHIP IN ITS ORGANIZATION ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, CREED OR COLOR."

APR 10 1941

In 1937, when the foregoing Amendment was offered to the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act by Homer Brown, Marshall Shepard, Edwin Thompson, Walker K. Jackson, William Allmond and other Representatives, organized labor protested long and loud. However, when Governor Earle and other Democratic leaders let it be known that they favored the amendment, it was included.

The law gives organized labor broad and great powers. However, these powers are allowed only to labor organizations which do not discriminate against persons on account of "race or color."

It is axiomatic that no law is effective unless it is enforced. And no law enforces itself. Those who suffer the injury must bring the action.

Labor organizations can not function without the power of collective bargaining. Take that right away and they are as helpless as new-born babies. And under the laws of Pennsylvania any labor organization which discriminates against persons on account of "race or color" does not have the right to bargain collectively.

That is the weak spot in labor organizations. It is the point at which attack must be made. And if colored people do not use it, there is something wrong with their heads.

APR 10 1941

This newspaper knows the hard work performed by the colored members of the 1937 State Legislature to get this law enacted. But unless it is put to work for the benefit of the masses of colored workers, it is absolutely valueless.

There are people who clamor for the passage of certain laws with the belief that the simple enactment of the law will change by magic the conditions which they suffer. **No law will do any such thing.**

THE TRIBUNE calls special attention to this law and calls upon all organized groups which have as their purpose the advancement of colored people to bestir themselves and see that the teeth are pulled from all labor organizations which bar colored workers from their membership.

APR 10 1941

No business in Pennsylvania has to deal with any labor group that prohibits in any fashion colored members. Any strike called by such a labor group is illegal. Any such group which attempts to deal with employers as the collective bargaining agent can not have the protection of the law.

There is the law! Who will see that it is enforced? Who should see that it is enforced?

The answer is as clear as daylight — Colored Americans who suffer the agonies of hell because of discrimination by certain labor unions.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Are Strikes Suicidal To Labor?

APR 23 1941

It has become obvious to almost everyone that labor is the Number 1 problem in the defense drive. On April 5th, defense director Kudsen said that 90 per cent of strikes must be eliminated or the defense program will fail. Under the best of conditions our arms program is not coming up to original hopes, and when strikes occur precious days and weeks are irretrievably lost.

The waste occasioned by strikes was computed in one of General Johnson's late columns. According to him, during January, February and the first three weeks of March, the strike toll was 1,129,000 man-days. And that, as he further observed, does not tell the whole story. Many of the strikes took place in key factories, the result being that other factories could not get needed materials, so hundreds of thousands of man-days were lost elsewhere.

APR 23 1941

Labor's excuse for strikes is that it is not now getting its fair share of profits—that the industries which have been given war contracts are rolling up unprecedented gross revenues, and that the worker should be paid substantially more, and be given other, non-monetary benefits in addition. This argument may be valid in some cases. But, so far as most industries are concerned, gross profits are a poor gauge of net profits. The tax burden alone is taking most of the increased earnings, and there can be no doubt that taxes will be still higher in the years to come. Futhermore, the very pace of the drive is adding heavily to industry's operating costs. You can carry on an operation in the most economical way when you have plenty of time—you must often take the most expensive way when the days are flying by and a deadline for delivery is at hand. The cost of most raw materials is on the rise. Long ago, top government officials said that no one is going to get rich out of this war. That will be pretty largely true. Through taxation, the government can control and limit income just about as it pleases.

A number of thougtful friends of labor are of the opinion that the strikes are, in a sense, suicidal—that they may alienate public good will to the extent that the immense gains made by labor during the past eight years may be lost. Every poll indicates that the public is "fed up" with what it regards as labor racketeering. They indicate an overwhelming majority of citizens favor some sort of forced mediation by government that will prevent strikes. As Raymond Clapper, a columnist who certainly has never been anti-labor, recently wrote, "Don't think that thousands of families, into whose homes conscription has reached, will not support the Roosevelt Administration if it is driven to take the hard-boiled way. Mr. Roosevelt will have public sentiment fully behind him."

This feeling is obviously shared in government circles. According to columnists Aslop and Kintner, "Such episodes as the Allis-Chalmers strike have filled the Congress, the best of all reflectors of public opinion, with violent resentment. The demand for strong measures to deal with the labor situation would have produced results long ago had not the House and Senate leaders struggled manfully to hold their followers back. The demand will soon grow too pressing to be ignored."

APR 23 1941

In short, unless labor "listens to reason," you can look forward to severe laws to control strikes. The late defiance of Secretary Knox and Cmomissioner Knudsen by the CIO leader in the Allis-Chalmers strike, was almost universally condemned by the nation's press. And the threat of far more important strikes in our most vital industries has caused some meaningful fist-clenching in Washington.

As the President has said, profiteering industry will also get short shrift. Government, through the priority system, can literally choke any business into submission. If worst comes worst, he can use the power to commandeer. Labor leaders are mistaken if they think they can get away indefinitely with holding up the defense program. This is more than an arms drive—to millions of Americans it is a crusade. And they mean to see it through.

APR 23 1941

—The Industrial News Review.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

VINSON BILL—Strong protest from many quarters against the Vinson anti-strike bill has persuaded administration forces in Congress, who intended to push it through this week, to slow down a little and consideration of the bill may be postponed. The measure by poll-tax statesman Carl Vinson of Georgia provides a compulsory "cooling off" period and freezing of the open shop in "defense" industries. "A more devilish instrument to destroy labor unions could not be devised," said Lee Pressman, general counsel of the CIO. ~~The AF of L also opposes the bill.~~

MAY 1 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Food Union Leader and A. Philip Randolph Back Committee

MAYOR TO SPEAK

OCT 25 1941

Both CIO, AFL Push Appeals to Rally All City Labor

The name of George Brown, Negro labor figure and vice-president of the AFL Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Union, was added last night to the growing list of trade union officials who have given backing to the anti-Nazi labor rally here next Saturday.

In addition to Mr. Brown's endorsement another prominent Negro labor leader, A. Philip Randolph, leader of the AFL Sleeping Car Porters, also added his signature to the list of CIO and AFL leaders, which yesterday numbered 76 and was still increasing by the hour.

Mr. Brown will be among the speakers who will address the big open-air rally which will be held next Saturday at 1 P. M. at Madison Square. Among those who have thus far accepted the arrangements committee's invitation to address the rally, are Mayor LaGuardia, Newbold Morris, president of the City Council; Joseph Curran, president of the Greater New York Industrial Union Council; Mr. Brown, Rabbi Stephen Wise and Jack Rosenberg, Musicians' Local 802 president.

AFL-CIO COMMITTEE

OCT 25 1941

The sponsoring committee for the anti-Hitler labor meeting is composed of AFL and CIO officials, a group of whom are giving full time to the task of mobilizing some 700 local unions throughout the city for the turnout Saturday. Harry Reich, AFL official, active in arrangements, said yesterday that the committee has printed several hundred thousand leaflets urging trade unionists to turn out in an unprecedented number. He said a total of a half million leaflets will be broadcast throughout the city before the meeting date.

To be known officially as a "Rally for America," the Madison Square meeting will have, in addition to scores of thousands of unions and the noted array of speakers, a colorful note with the scheduled appearance of national groups whose homelands have fallen under Hitler's invading heel.

THOUSANDS EXPECTED

Henry Wenning, CIO union leader, also giving full time to the rally preparations, said yesterday that a survey of the unions supporting the rally indicates that more than 75,000 unionists will attend.

He said that the main purpose of the rally will be to underscore the solid backing the trade unions of the AFL and CIO have given the Administration's anti-Nazi foreign policies and to urge Congress to take every step necessary to smash Hitler.

1941

Resolutions will be presented to the rally, other union spokesmen said, urging the British Government to immediately open a Western Front; speedier U. S. military aid to the embattled Red Army, and the initiation of a "United States Planes and Tanks Week for Russia."

351-1941 GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Opportunity

NEGRO LABOR WILL GAIN IF IT REFUSES TO GO SOLIDLY AFL OR CIO

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

NOT ONLY in the political arena but in the labor field as well the Negro is in the favorable position where he is courted by various factions and groups. In this situation Negro labor, if organized into a block, could play a shrewd game of "power politics"—a game of making each side and faction bid against one another for his support.

Mr. Cayton

To illustrate what I mean take, for example, the International Harvester strike in Chicago. In the past issue of one of the Negro papers a full page was purchased by the CIO and another full page by the AF of L.—both pleading with Negro employes to vote for their organization in the forthcoming National Labor election. In the recent Ford election, as was pointed out last week, the CIO and the AF of L. fought over the Negro vote much like the Democrats and Republicans did in the last Presidential election. In fact the same tactic of buying space in the newspapers, parading bigwig Negro leaders and makng elaborate promises made both contests seem more like political rallies than a union election. This is all grist to the Negroes mill—he has nothing to lose but discrimination and neglect.

Of course in most instances, as with Ford and the International Harvester Company, there is small choice between the unions for any intelligent Negro laborer. The CIO is so far superior to most AF of L. unions that Negroes should spend considerable time on their knees thanking God that John L. Lewis got mad at Bill Green and finally walked out. However, the Negro should not give the CIO a blank check by any means.

None of the CIO unions discriminate against Negroes in their constitution and by-laws but plenty of them do not go the whole hog and force his promotion. It is my opinion that the United Automobile Workers could have done a lot more to make Negroes in Detroit believe in them before the inevitable Ford difficult came up.

KEEP VIGILANT

HOWEVER, on the other hand, some of the unions in the CIO are becoming aware of what they are actually facing and are making every step to eradicate race prejudice. But still I would say Negro workers should not give the CIO a blank check. Only through constant pressure will any white organization in these United States continue to treat Negroes fairly. When they have their votes or their support safely tucked away, then they forget about the brother.

There are indeed instances where AF of L locals are more fair than CIO locals in some industries. A case in point is that of the Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers of America in Birmingham, Ala. Where the CIO local was apathetic of the AF of L local of this national of insisted that colored members receive raises in pay to reduce the differential between their pay and that of white workers. They insisted too, on opening the apprentice school for Negroes.

There are other instances when it is not wise for Negroes to leave AF of L. unions or to abandon a fight carried on over a period of years to gain admittance to them. In many cities all of the building trades are controlled by the AF of L. In some few instances Negro mechanics who have been trying for years to gain recognition by these unions have given up the fight and go to the new CIO unions.

Nothing is gained, usually, from these tactics but to eliminate Negroes from building trade work. Of course on the other hand it is good sense for Negroes who have not a foot hold in the AF of L building trades to join the CIO unions.

PLAY MIDDLE ROLE

AGAIN THERE are instances where it is better for Negroes to stay in the AF of L. so that a fight for complete recognition can be carried on within that organization. For example I think that it is wise for Randolph and the Pullman porters to stay in the AF of L., for as long as they do Randolph is a powerful force for the Negro within the Federation ranks.

Then there is another struggle going on—that between the right and left wings of the CIO. Here, too, both sides are struggling to get and retain the Negroes allegiance. As in the case of the CIO vs. the AF of L. the left wing union have been more favorable to Negroes than have the more conservative unions. But again it would be foolhearty to give the "left" Negro support carte blanc. Even these unions have in past history sacrificed the Negro for political expediences. Likewise, it is not always wise to follow the "line" of the "left" without close scruntiny. The Negro should let both "right" and "left" bid if they want to hold his support and never let either side feel he can be written off.

NEGRO LABOR has an opportunity unexcelled in its history to become integrated into the labor movement. They should not put all their eggs in one basket nor allow themselves to be taken for granted by AF of L. or CIO, or by the right or left.

JUN 28 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Organized Labor

NEGROES NEED TWO KINDS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO SECURE RIGHTS

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

THAT there is race prejudice and exploitation of Negroes in the American labor movement should surprise no one. There is not an American institution to my knowledge where one cannot find some vestige of prejudice. Certainly the writer cannot see that this constitutes a rational reason for Negroes refusing to join the union. It would be just as stupid to say that Negroes should have nothing to do with the Republican Party (which is obviously prejudiced), or the Democratic Party, (which includes some of the worst Southern-Negro-haters in the country). The obvious answer in politics is for the Negro to get into both parties and work from within toward changing their attitudes. This procedure should also be followed by the Negro in the labor field. That failure to do so will accomplish nothing but prepare the way for the Negro to finally be eliminated from industry, as this column has pointed out on several occasions.

Mr. Cayton

ORGANIZE

It is our contention that only through some organization of Negro workers—who can bring pressure from within as well as from without the labor movement—will any real change be made. Neither the legalistic approach of civil-rights organizations nor legislative action will ultimately be successful.

Some time ago the writer advocated the formation of a National Negro Trade Organization whose functions would be to organize from the ranks of the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. all Negro trade union men. This Negro block within labor's ranks would fight for the complete participation of Negroes in all unions and against any act of segregation, jim crowism, or exploitation on the part of any union.

A National Negro Trade Organization would have a two-fold purpose. First it would have a general educational program which would have as its objectives the breaking down of the fear on the part of Negro workers of the organized labor movement. Its second task would be to break down prejudice within the ranks of organized labor and to demonstrate to organized white workers the necessity of cooperation with Negroes and including Negroes in their ranks on the basis of full equality.

NEED FOR LOBBY

In addition a Negro Trade Organization could act as a general lobby to represent the interests of the Negro working population in Washington. In the fight which the CIO is making for the repeal of the poll tax abuses of the south, for example, there is no Negro labor organization that maintains a lobby in Washington to assist. There is no Negro organization in Washington bringing constant pressure, from the union point of view, on the Office of Production Management to see that Negroes are included in the defense contracts. Nor is there any national Negro union organization which is attempting to work with the A. F. of L., or C. I. O., in straightening out the difficulties which arise in Sidney Hillman's office.

THIS IS a point which should be remembered. It was once thought that the Negro was a member of the general working class and taht as the problem of the working class was solved, so would be all the problems of the Negro. But we know now that in addition to his problem as a worker the Negro has a configuration of problems arising out of his identification as a Negro.

DOUBLE PROBLEM

The labor unions, to which every Negro should belong, should deal with such problems as those of wages, hours and general working conditions. These are the problems which the Negro shares with his fellow workers. But in addition he needs another organization—a vertical organization to which all Negro trade unionist would belong—which would address itself to those special problems arising out of his race.

To state it graphically, the horizontal organization based on class lines would include the Negro and white workers and deal with those problems which the Negro encounters as a worker. The vertical organizaion (whose membership would be solely Negro), would include Negroes from many unions and would deal with those special problems which arise out of the Negroes being a Negro in white America.

Only through the combination of both types of organization can the Negro address itself to the problems which he must face in securing complete participation in American industry.

MAY 31 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LABOR GAINS

FEAR AND DISTRUST AMONG NEGRO-WHITE TRADE UNIONISTS DISAPPEARING

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

JUN 21 1941

A FRIEND of mine recently asked me what specific instances I would pick out to illustrate the new relationship which is growing up between organized labor and the Negro. He explained that he was only interested in those few dramatic incidents which had tended to show the breakdown of the fear and distrust which most Negroes had of trade unions, how prejudice among white workers had to some extent abated and which would demonstrate some specific and definite gain which has occurred to Negroes from belonging to a strong international union.

Mr. Cayton

The first and most important instance that I picked involved the last type of situation, i. e., where Negroes obtained specific and obvious gains by belonging to an international. Some weeks ago I wrote in this column about the United Mine Workers and the southern wage differential. At that time I predicted that John Lewis would break up the vicious practice of taking the cost of hauling southern coal to northern markets from the southern workers paychecks on the spurious argument that southern workers (mainly Negroes) could live cheaper than northern workers. This achievement was important not only to the 50,000 or so Negroes involved but because it set a precedent for other organized groups to follow. With one stroke the Negro workers gained from their union more than the government could give them, in that situation, throughout the entire N. R. A. period.

AIDED BY WHITES

The second instance of major importance illustrated the fact, (often disputed) that some organized white workers would, under the proper stimulus, protest the rights of Negroes to work and to promotions. The New York bus strike was extraordinary because not only were the striking bus men willing to have Negroes employed but actually gave up their seniority, in some cases, so that the hundred odd new Negroes could be employed. This came as a result of the pressure of the Negro community which was mobilized to fight for these positions, but the union was willing and did make definite sacrifices to obtain jobs for a certain percentage of Negroes.

One might also mention in this connection the fact that the C. I. O. industrial council of the Chicago Metropolitan district is debating the proposal to ask the new Studebaker factory, soon to open in that city, to include 25 per cent Negroes in their new union force. Many other incidents of the same nature could be reported but none in my mind is as dramatic as the New York bus strike where white union men actually made sacrifices to demonstrate their solidarity with black workers.

CITE FORD CASE

The recent Ford vote, at the River Rouge plant, illustrates the third type of situation. Ford, more than any other northern industrial employer, had utilized every method of parentalistic control with his Negro labor. More than in any other city in the country the Negro professional class and civic leaders were under the domination of the philosophy that the Negro's salvation lay with the powerful, rich industrialists and not with his white fellow workers. The Negro workers were Ford's "hole card" in his fight against the inevitable union drive.

PRECEEDING the election by the National Labor Board every effort was made by Ford and his Negro personnel men (who had previously ruled the town) to force the Negro workers to vote against the C. I. O. But in this case there was a break with all previous traditions. Bigwig Negroes from the east flew in to speak from sound trucks in favor of the C. I. O.; Negro concert artists sang on the platform with union organizers and even the Negro newspapers and churches supported the movement. For the first time in a Negro community it was unpopular (and even unhealthy) to be a pro-Ford man. Never before to my knowledge has the intrenched, anti-union Negro leadership been so completely challenged and defeated.

There are other incidents which are perhaps just as important as those I have mentioned. For example, the appointment of Henry Johnson as Assistant National Director of the Packing House Workers Industrial Union, the free election of Negroes to positions of responsibility and control in the Steel Workers Organizing Committee and the Seamen's Union are cases in point.

The above three instances, however, strike me as perhaps the most dramatic and the more important in indicating the trend race relations in industry have taken in the past few years.

THINGS TO COME

Six years ago, even one year ago, I would have said that none would have happened. I didn't think that the North-South wage differential would be broken after N. R. A. failed for years to come. I didn't think they had a chance to break Ford much less than Negroes would be instrumental in doing it. Skeptics of the value and the possibility of Negroes participating in the labor movement should study these instances as an indication "of the shape of things to come."

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Labor and Industry

HOW TO CHOOSE BETWEEN C. I. O. AND A. F. L. NEGRO BALANCE OF POWER AT HARVESTER!

(By George F. McCray for ANP)

AUG 1941

The balance of power among the employes of the International Harvester company is in the hands of some 800 Negro workers. The collective bargaining election at the McCormick plant of the company in Chicago on June 18 was A. F. L., 2671; C. I. O., 2683; protested 78, and no union 206. The Negro vote was about equally divided between the two organizations.

Last week the National Labor Relations board ordered a run-off election to be held at the plant on July 30. This situation gives the Negro Harvester worker a rare opportunity to show trade union statesmanship of the very highest order. If he acts through the situation without weakness and vacilation he should win a victory which will greatly strengthen the position of the Negro worker in the basic industries of Chicago.

Getting Down to Fundamentals

Unfortunately, hundreds of Negro workers were more confused and bewildered by the C. I. O.-A. F. L. campaign for their support than they were enlightened by it. Instead of a sharp, clear-cut point of view to guide them in their evaluation of the claims of the two organizations, hundreds up to the very day of the election were scratching their heads, unable to make up their minds. Yet, it is a comparatively simple matter to choose between the C. I. O. and the A. F. L. A wise decision or choice rests upon consideration of the three following points:

1. Which of the two organizations has been most consistent in using its political, social and economic power to protect the interests of Negroes generally?
2. Which union, has predominant influence or bargaining rights in the particular industry in which Negroes are to vote?
3. Do the unions who will eventually hold jurisdiction over the jobs which Negroes have now and hope to get freely admit Negroes?

These questions reach into the very heart of our struggle for equality of citizenship and equal economic opportunity. We want not only a labor movement which will improve the working conditions of jobs which we now hold, but which will also use its broad and diversified powers to help us solve our problems with the total society.

Sizing Up The General Situation

The A. F. L. officially regrets the fact that prejudice against Negroes exists, but feels that "time" will make conditions better. Even within the federation itself it is almost impossible to get constructive, concrete action on the problem of discrimination against Negroes who are themselves members of AFL unions. However, despite this unwillingness by the A. F. L. to concern itself with our particular problems, several hundred thousand Negroes in various sections of the country have entered a limited number of A. F. L. unions seeking improvement of local job conditions.

The C. I. O. almost single-handed has led the fight to give Negroes the right to vote in the south. It has fought consistently for an anti-lynching bill; and, all over the country it has led an aggressive fight against discrimination against Negroes in the nation's basic industries. As at the Harvester plant, C. I. O. not only has led the fight for promotion of Negroes to more skilled jobs, but is the only labor group in the United States which will not admit a union which discriminates against Negro workers.

The A. F. L. has at least 8 Jim Crow unions. Within a few years CIO has acquired a Negro membership which probably exceeds that of the AFL.

After The Elections-----What?

The Negro worker not only at the Harvester company but in every election anywhere in the United States should examine very critically the policies and attitudes of all unions toward Negroes. In this connection it is absolutely necessary to know what will be done with the workers temporarily organized in A. F. L. Federal Labor unions.

Atlanta, Ga Constitution
July 26, 1941

City's Garbage Collections Still Tied Up

$10,781 in Pay Raises for Other Workers Proposed.

(Picture on Page 1.)

Three city council committees yesterday recommended raising 295 Negro employes of the municipality $10,781 for the remainder of the year even while Mayor LeCraw was pleading with 178 striking Negro garbage collectors, who have practically paralyzed collections since Tuesday, to return to their jobs at the same salary they are now receiving.

The strikers remained adamant in refusing to return to work.

Under a recommendation of the sanitary committee, the strikers would get a 25-cents-a-day increase instaed of the 50 cents demanded. The committee's recommendation would cost $6,460 for the remainder of the year.

In addition, the water committee recommended that 38 Negro employes be raised $2,661 and the construction department that 79 Negroes be raised $1,660 for the remainder of the year. The two latter proposals would give the employes an income of $15 a week, the same salary the garbage collectors now receive.

Mayor LeCraw has insisted that no compromise be made with the striking employes, charging them with the responsibility of imperiling the health of the community by striking during the heaviest season of the year, but the committee actions yesterday ignored the mayor's stand and sought to compromise the issues.

Other developments were:

1. The committee asked Councilman John A. White, finance committee chairman, to call his committee to meet Monday morning to consider these and other raises, and later in the afternoon asked Mayor LeCraw to call a special meeting of council to vote the changes Monday afternoon.

2. Mayor LeCraw declined to sanction the proposed program late yesterday, saying he wished to study the situation more thoroughly. White said he would call the finance committee to meet, but warned the city has no money to appropriate, but that it could be taken from the interest account if it is replaced before interest comes due next January.

3. The plan to place city prisoners on the trucks to collect the garbage fell through when truck drivers, affiliated with AFL, declined to drive the trucks if prisoners were used in collections.

4. Mr. and Mrs. Private Citizen loaded the garbage on the trucks themselves when garbage trucks drove over the town collecting such refuse as the citizens and business houses could load with their own labor.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Two Pickets Arrested In Plant Strike

OCT 23 1941

Violence Flares In Labor Move At Steel Company

Two C. I. O. pickets were arrested early Wednesday after they made an attempt to prevent a truck from entering the Atlantic Steel Company's plant at West Sixteenth and Mecaslin Streets.

Patrolmen Roy Wall and F. A Rhodes listed the arrested men as Jesse Ford, 23, of 245 Merritts Avenue NE, and Lamar Alford, 28, of 1408 Bradley Street, SE.

The officers said an oil truck driven by Henry Harper, 51, of 529 Lambert Street, was allowed to pass colored and white picket lines but ran into trouble at State and Sixteenth Streets when several men jumped on the the truck and attempted to halt the driver.

Oct 23 1941

MANHANDLING

Ford and Alford held fast to the truck while it sped out State Street, the policemen said. The officers declared Harper was manhandled and was cut by flying glass when one of the walkout sumpathizers broke the windshield of the truck.

Ford either fell or was knocked from the truck at State and Hemhill Streets and rolled against a fruit stand, spilling fruit all over the sidewalk.

WORK CONTINUES

Work continued at the steel company Wednesday despite a union walkout at the plant Tuesday night at 11 o'clock. Approximately 500 workers were on the job while hundreds of C. I. O. pickets surrounded the outside fences.

Earlier Wednesday morning, a white milk truck driver was molested and some of his milk dumped when he attempted to pass the picket lines. A white picket was reported arrested.

150 ON JOB

The walkout occurred when the 11 p. m. shift was coming on duty Tuesday night, and workers were turned back from the plant gates by the picket lines that had formed an hour earlier. However it was understood that approximately 150 workers remained at their jobs at the open hearth furnaces were rolling metal in the blooming mill.

It was learned that some 400 men had breakfast as the company's cafeteria Wednesday morning, indicating that probably 250 men evaded picket lines during the night and came to work.

Police headquarters said 10 officers in radio cars, under command of Captain E. W. Ginn, were called to the strike area Wednesday morning.

Workers who remained at their jobs estimated that 500 men were at their posts, stating that small groups of workers had slipped through picket lines during the morning. One billet mill employee said the men in his department planned to continue at work "as long as we have food and material to work with." He said that beds for workers have been made in the plant's auditorium, and that the employees are being fed at the company cafeteria.

Meanwhile, at entrances of the plant, pickets moved in a slow walk in a big circle outside the gates. More than 30 company policemen were on duty at the police offices inside each gate, while outside the fence were Atlanta and Fulton County police.

The pickets announced they did not intend to allow any truck loaded with "bread and meat" for workers to pass the gates. Police said they did not believe any trucks would be allowed to enter the ground.

1,300 EMPLOYED AT PLANT

Approximately 1,300 men are employed at the Atlantic plant which recently has been operating on a 24-hour basis on defense priority orders. The plant is locally owned and has been operated in Atlanta for more than 50 years.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

DEC 2 - 1941

Several members of the WORLD mechanical department, who are affiliated with Local 470, AFL Typographical Union, without a notice to the management called a strike Monday morning in an effort to force the execution of a contract which provided for a "closed shop"—a requirement that all future employes of that department join the union. There is no disagreement over pay.

The strike followed a long period of negotiations during which the management had shortened hours and granted increases as high as thirty per cent.

Continued negotiations were brought to a sudden halt when the administrator of the W. A. Scott estate held that it was not in his power to grant the "closed shop" demands.

DEC 2 - 1941

However under the leadership of a Mr. Baker, white union organizer, and L. A. Bell, president of the local, the men failed to report on their regular schedule Monday, although the management had not been previously given a notice of plan to strike.

The management takes the position that the execution of the contract the union is demanding would void some of the rights of the legatees, who actually own the Scott estate.

DEC 2 - 1941

The union leaders refused the request of the management to meet with the union as a whole and explain its position. Also it denied the management's request to stop strike action until the estate could be closed within the next thirty or sixty days so the proper authority could further negotiate with the union on its "closed shop" demands.

During the emergency caused by the labor dispute, it has been found necessary to curtail the size of the Atlanta Daily WORLD. It is hoped that the subscribers will bear with the management until a basis of settlement can be reached.

Signed:

C. A. Scott, Administrator
Estate of W. A. Scott

Columbia S C State
February 8, 1941

'Racketeering' In Ga. Unions Stirs Debate

Atlanta, Feb. 7—(AP)—Charges of "racketeering" and "profiteering in the unionization of workers on defense projects resounded in the Georgia legislature today, halting nearly all business except the passage of a few local bills.

The bitter attacks on labor organizations prompted two members of the house to call for suspension of judgment until the "facts" have been developed fully at a public hearing next week on legislation that would make it a felony for unions to solicit any money from workers employed on a project financed by tax money.

In a fist-shaking speech in the senate, H. B. Edwards of Valdosta, author of the legislation, excoriated what he termed this 'communistic, racketeering, profiteering" practice of "forcing men to pay to work." he spoke for more than an hour.

The racial issue flared during debate in the house, Representative Perry L. Pittman of Berrian charging that white men "are required to go to a Negro" to obtain permission to work on Atlanta defense projects.

"It is a fact," he said, "that both white men and Negroes are required to mix committee meetings only three blocks from this capitol. Down here in the South we respect the Negro in his place, but we don't want equality.

"Friends and neighbors tell me they have tried to work on defense projects. They report that as soon as they get their union fee paid or nearly paid, they lose their jobs."

Representative Frank Gross of Toccoa commented that "many charges have been filed, but what we need is the facts." He suggested these could be obtained by calling witnesses at the forthcoming public hearing.

An appeal for "fair play" was made by Representative Cicero Kendrick ot Atlanta, a labor spokesman who said "if my people are doing wrong, I'll condemn them. I am not going to condone wrongdoings by the unions or anyone else."

Senator Edwards focused his attention on the $2,800,000 army hospital under construction at nearby Camp Gordon. A requirement that all carpenter on the project join a local A. F. of L. union by this morning was withdrawn by the contractors and the legislature called this "a victory for democracy."

"It means," he shouted, "that those 1,100 carpenters won't have to pay $50 a piece for the God-given right to work." (The initation fee of the union, payable in installments is $50.)

Greenville S C News
January 26, 1941

Anti-Lynching Drive Will Be Continued

ATLANTA, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A two-year program calling for continuation of the campaign against lynching and consideration of the part the negro will play in national defense received approval of the executive committee of the Commission on Interracial co-operation here today.

Efforts will be made to see that negroes are given proportionate representation in defense plans, committee members said, adding that both labor and defense leaders have indicated a desire that equal opportunity be given.

The campaign against lynching will again be conducted through the Association of Southern Women for the prevention of lynching.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

State Opens Legal War On 'Rackets'

Sheriff Hicks Says Union Organization Is 'Aid to Hitler'

In a move designed to halt what they termed "labor racketeering," officials of the state labor department moved into Macon Tuesday caused the arrest of a union organizer, and announced "the people of Georgia will not permit a return of carpetbaggery or scalawaggery."

Asserting he had been ordered here by Commissioner of Labor Ben T. Huiet to investigate alleged labor racketeering, J. E. B. Stewart, director of the bureau of unemployment compensation flayed recent efforts of the International Building and Common Laborers Union of America [AFL] to organize common laborers here, and charged the organization with "depriving many helpless women and children of the necessities of life."

Acting in co-operation with Stewart, Sheriff J. R. Hicks Jr., ordered the arrest of S. J. Pleasant, 22, Savannah, organizer for the union, on charges of operating an employment agency without first having made application to the state department of labor and paid necessary licenses. Pleasant's bond was set at $15,000.

WORKED HERE FOUR WEEKS

Pleasant's arrest climaxed four weeks of organization work here among Negroes, during which he declared a virtual boycott of the Georgia State Employment Service.

Asserting he was an official of Local 1181, International Common Labor and Hod Carriers Union of America, Pleasant said he had been ordered here by union officials in Washington.

He said Negroes who registered with his organization had been instructed not to accept jobs through the Georgia State Employment Service at wages less than 40 cents per hour.

Several days ago he announced plans for conducting organization work among domestic servants in Macon.

CALLED "HITLERISM"

Describing Pleasant's organization work among the common laborers as "Hitlerism," the sheriff said he was "totally opposed to anything that will help Hitler or anything that will obstruct our defense program. And that's what this is."

Stewart and Sheriff Hicks said they had been told that Pleasant was charging local common laborers .mostly Negroes, a fee of 50 cents to register them for future work on defense projects under the pretense that he could secure for them wages of 40 cents per hour.

The sheriff said he had also been informed that in some instances Pleasant had collected fees of $9 from registrants.

"I have issued a warning," he said, "that if any of those Negroes are caught congregating around Pleasant's office here they will be arrested on vagrancy charges and

"The people of Georgia won't permit a return of carpetbaggery and scalawaggery. My advice to these workers is to not be misled by false promises. They must live a long time after this mirage-bearer has collected their money and departed.

"Several days ago some stooge of Morechi issued a statement in which he stated, 'the Georgia Employment Service is helping keep wages low by serving as a hiring hall for jobs at 30 cents per hour.' Such a statement is hereby branded entirely false. The employment service acts merely as a referral agency between employers and employes.

"We have no jobs except when an employer requests the services of an employe. When this is done we endeavor to furnish the employer with qualified help. All negotiations such as wages, hours, and conditions of work are agreed upon by employer and employe.

"I am of the opinion that the respectable citizens of Bibb county and the surrounding territory share the views expressed above, and that the honest and unsuspecting workers of this section should be protected against such individuals who come into Macon at this time for purely selfish reasons."

FARM WORK UPSET

Sheriff Hicks said he had received reports that Pleasant had hired trucks to transport laborers from farms throughout this area to his office, where they were registered as prospective members of his organization.

"It is simply a money-making scheme to fleece Negroes," the officer said "I have been friendly to Bibb county Negroes for the last 30 years when they would let me, and I don't like to see them robbed.

"This labor registration business has upset farm work in this section and in my opinion operation of farms is as important right now as any other phase of the defense program," he said.

Meanwhile, from his cell in the Bibb county jail Pleasant denied allegations that he had collected fees for registering common laborers. He said he had registered approximately 2,000 workers and that no initiation or registration fee had been collected. Payment of initiation fee, he said, is delayed until the registrants are given jobs.

NOT FIGHTING LABOR

Both Director Stewart and Sheriff Hicks emphasized that they were not fighting organized labor.

"It's simply a case of these birds trying to feather their own nests at the expense of the poor fellows who have to earn their money by the sweat of their brow," Mr. Stewart said. "There is nothing a union can do for these fellows in this instance. Wages paid on defense projects here to common laborers are set by the war department. If it was a question of these men dealing with private capital it would be a different situation."

Mr. Stewart said his position in regard to unions collecting initiation fees before workers are given jobs on defense projects is the same as when the defense program was launched.

"I feel," he said, "that any union or union official that charges a man one cent to work on a defense project is engaging in racketeering practices. These boys who have been drafted didn't have to pay a fee for getting into the Army, did they? They didn't charge me any $50 initiation fee or say I needed a union card when I registered for selective service."

Sheriff Hicks attacked recent strikes in defense industries and said he felt everyone between 18 and [illegible] should be drafted and placed in jobs where they would be of most benefit to the defense program.

"And if any of these Negroes who registered with this man are planning to strike on defense projects," he declared, "I think they should be immediately drafted and sent to the Army where they will draw $21 per month."

JUL 2 1941

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Registration Of Negroes Is Resumed

Registration of Macon Negroes by the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers union, the action which set off the bitter struggle that raged for two weeks between Sheriff J. R. Hicks Jr. and American Federation of Labor officials, was resumed yesterday.

The local office of the union, raided twice by city and county authorities during the fight, was re-opened by J. T. Price, vice president of the Georgia Federation of Labor and vice president of the Macon Federation of Trades, who is a member of the local electrical workers union.

LAWYERS DIFFER

Meanwhile, publication of the fact that a code section cited in the warrant under which S. J. Pleasant, youthful organizer for the union, was arrested at the outset of the fight had been repealed by the 1937 legislature brought a difference of opinion from Macon attorneys as to its

JUL 12 1941

legal effect on the case.

While the actual code section cited in the warrant was repealed, City Court Solicitor Oscar L. Long said, it will not materially affect charges against Pleasant. It will be possible to prosecute the organizer under other laws covering the same offense of which he is accused, the solicitor explained.

Mr. Long said he had not studied the Pleasant case but contended that the charge outlined in an accusation filed by the solicitor was the basis of a prosecution rather than the charge on which a defendant is taken into custody.

JUL 12 1941

SECT[illegible] RE-ENACTED

A prominent local attorney agreed with Mr. Long's contention that repeal of the code section will not materially affect the charges. But he contended that the organizer could not be legally tried for violating the now nonexistant code section and that a new warrant or accusation would have to be drawn.

The code section Pleasant was charged with violating in the warrant, section 54-110, 1933 code, was repealed in 1937 when the act creating the present department of labor was passed. Actually, the entire section [illegible]enacted, almost [illegible]atim, in the new law and is no[illegible]embodied in the 1937 code as section 54-122, paragraph F.

JUL 12 1941

The code section cited against Pleasant, who is now free under a $15,000 bond, prohibited the operation of an employment agency without paying license fees and posting bond.

Mr. Price said he registered 38 more Negroes for membership in the union yesterday. Approximately 2,000 Negroes were registered in the organization drive conducted by Pleasant before his arrest.

Telegraph

Macon, Georgia

Negro Labor

Editor The Telegraph:

There is great dissatisfaction and strife in Macon and Bibb county and other sections in Georgia over the Negro problem. It is being [illegible]sed, [illegible]ted and irritate[illegible]d with great regret and grief on account of the poor, unhappy county Negroes.

JUL 19 1941

The leaders and organizers of this poor unfortunate race are overwhelmed with love for the poor, miserable and ill-treated fellow. The emissaries have been stirring up strife in dear old Twiggs.

They feel called upon by a long and accusing conscience and by a deep sense of right and justice to save this despised and cheated and neglected colored man on the farm.

Particularly are the sympathizers and mourners grieved and broken-hearted over the starvation prices and impoverished condition of the wage earner on the farm.

The chief mourners, who sit high up in the synagogue, are dissatisfying the Negroes with their wages. The average country Negro who lives on the farm is reasonably satisfied with the wages he receives, with his employer and the general surroundings; and was happy till the self-appointed mis-directed peace-disturber felt called upon to array the Negro against the white man and the white man against the Negro.

JUL 19 1941

The two races h[illegible]en living together here in the South for many long years very peaceably, very happily, with rare exceptions. And this relation would continue if these outsiders and self-appointed meddlers would just attend to their own business.

The Negro is naturally a gentle and agreeable kind of a fellow. He has a happy disposition, and if let alone by the meddler in the South and imported, distubrances on the farm would be rare.

Ordinarily the Negro who works for wages on the farm has a good house to live in, plenty to eat and wood to burn. He is paid regularly for his services and is given a garden, a good patch, and a half day off every Saturday and a mule to work his patch.

If he is economical and industrious and faithful and honest, he can make a good living for himself and his family, but one of the greatest needs is to get rid of the meddler, the busybody, the fellow who would cause friction between the employer and the employe.

The farmer may have hay seed in his hair and stir his drinks with his knife and take his coffee straight but he has more brains in his head and more heart in his bosom than these wild jacks of the woods and smart alecs who know more than is so.

So pull out, stranger. When we need you [illegible] will call for you. Your room [illegible] preferred to your presence. We will a[illegible] to our own business. If you h[illegible]e any, you'd better look after it right away. Better for both parties concerned.

JUL 19 1941

The end is not yet.

J. C. SOLOMON.

Fitzpatrick.

Constitution

Atlanta, Georgia

Request To Put Garbage Cans On Curb Made

Mayor Asks Public Aid During Strike of 200 Workers.

Home owners and business houses yesterday were asked to put all filled garbage cans on the curb line so that collectors may make their rounds more rapidly.

Mayor LeCraw appealed to the public to co-operate "while the city government attempts to do the difficult job of collecting as much as possible on the restricted operations we are able to maintain because of the strike of about 200 laborers."

JUL 25 1941

He also issued a statement placing the blame on the striking workmen, who have demanded more pay.

Business houses were urged to call the sanitary department at the city hall, WAlnut 4463, or the city garage, MAin 9703, when they have garbage collections which they can load with their own labor. The mayor said the city has plenty of trucks, but it has not the available labor to load the trucks at the moment.

Following is the mayor's statement:

Issuing an appeal to the people of Atlanta, the mayor said "172 unorganized Negro garbage collectors are taking advantage of the people of Atlanta and are imperiling your health."

"Once before, in 1940, these same Negroes walked off the job and forced a 10 per cent increase in their pay," he added. "They have now repeated this action, demanding a 20 per cent increase. They are now paid $15 per week, which is considered fair pay.

"These men gave no notice, but walked off the job without a word, counting on the danger to the health of Atlanta to enforce their demands.

"We are making every effort to collect your garbage, and we urge everyone to place his garbage can out on the curb so that the trucks which we are able to keep running will be able to collect it."

JUL 25 1941

Striking laborers yesterday refused to submit the controversy over whether they shall be raised from $2.50 a day to $3 a day to arbitration and declined to join the Teamsters' Union, an AFL affiliate, until their grievances are settled.

Constitution

Atlanta, Georgia

Garbage Odors

The city of Atlanta has been patient.

In the midst of an epidemic of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis), the men who load the city's garbage trucks walked out. It is believed that flies may be one of the carriers of the infantile paralysis germ. Flies are well-known carriers of other diseases.

It is high time those who are advising the men who have left their jobs, advise them to go back to work.

JUL 25 1941

It may be that, as they claim, they merit more pay. That point can be settled. It may be, as the city says, it cannot pay more. That can be settled.

These men yesterday reportedly refused to join a labor union which had asked them to organize. This would seem to bear out the claim of all concerned that the men who left their jobs did not present any grievances but simply left them, depending on the city's inability to collect garbage to obtain for them their demands.

It was not the right way to do it. Public sentiment will endure garbage more cheerfully than it will a strike against the essential service of a city. When such a strike comes in the midst of an epidemic of frightening prospects, it is all the more intolerable.

There are methods for presenting labor difficulties. These [illegible] have not chosen to use them. There are right ways and wrong ways to present demands. These [illegible] have chosen, no matter whether the cause be just or not, the wrong way.

JUL 25 1941

Those behind the scenes owe to the city a responsibility.

It is time they met it.

Constitution

Atlanta, Georgia

Police-Guarded Trucks To Roll For Garbage

Sanitary Department Tieup in Walkout Ends Today.

Twenty - six [illegible]le - protected trucks, manned by city police and full crews of workmen, will begin this morning movement of garbage despite a walkout of 178 Negro laborers, Mayor LeCraw said last night.

JUL 25 1941

As the mayor announced definitely that the city will resume garbage collections, he issued a statement in which he blamed the tie-up of the sanitary department for the past 60 hours on the striking workmen.

LeCraw said the city already has employed some labor and he appealed last night by radio for more men, and the co-operation of the public, and added "we are going to move garbage in Atlanta even if we have to do it with city prison labor."

Police Chief Hornsby was told by the mayor to clear the striking Negroes from the vicinity of city owned property early this morning. The trucks then will be driven from the garage to an unannounced destination where crews will be picked up. LeCraw said this move is mandatory because of what he termed the intimidation policy pursued by the strikers.

JUL 25 1941

35i-1941

GEORGIA

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

JUL 23 1941

AND NO WHEELS TURNED--Walkout of approximately 175 Negro laborers in the city sanitary department yesterday halted collection of garbage in Atlanta. Here is a view of part of the city's fleet of 52 trucks which ordinarily carry on the vital function of gathering Atlanta's daily refuse. Not a wheel turned as the "strikekrieg" stalled action on the garbage collection fronts all over town. Meanwhile, garbage was piling up.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

City's Garbage Piles Up as 175 Here Walk Out

351

Only 2 of 52 Trucks in Operation; Lay Off of Others Looms.

Walkout of nearly 175 Negro laborers in the city sanitary department yesterday virtually paralyzed collection of 400 tons of garbage a day and headed for a showdown this morning when administration leaders prepared to hire men to take over the work, to place deputized guards on the 52 trucks to protect the men and to begin as near normal movement of refuse as possible.

H. J. Cates, chief of the sanitary department, said the men reported to work yesterday morning but most of them refused to accompany the equipment. Five trucks left, but Cates said three of them later came back into the city gabage, leaving only two of 52 pieces of equipment in service.

The sanitary chief said the garbage collectors are not organized as far as he knows, but that the strike has "had all the earmarks of a well-organized and planned walk-out."

He said the men who went out during the early morning were intimidated until they came back and said they did not want to work because they feared for their personal safety.

"When those who wanted to work began their rounds, they were accosted by those who walked off in backyards and other places, and told to get off the job and abandon their equipment," Cates said. "They were actually threatened, and three of the five trucks abandoned their rounds before noon."

Councilman John A. White, chairman of council's finance committee, appealed to W. C. Key, fifth district engineer of WPA, to send 175 Negro workmen to the sanitary department this morning, but Key told him WPA could not enter a strike controversy.

Meanwhile, 72 city sanitary truck drivers, members of Fulton County Local No. 3, National, State, County and Municipal Employes' Union withdrew from that union and affiliated with Local No. 450, International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs, it was announced by Paul Gentry, one of the drivers. Both are AFL unions.

Gentry said the drivers decided they should affiliate according to craft. The sanitary drivers have held several meetings looking towards a strike if the city refuses to meet their demands for pay increases.

Mayor LeCraw and Cates said the men who walked off their jobs draw about $15 a week from tax funds, and that the city treasurer should not be called upon at this time to raise that figure.

"In addition to drawing $15 a week every week they work, those men have 15 days' sick leave a year and get other considerations," LeCraw said. "The financial condition of the city did not justify a general raise in salaries, and we could not meet their demands for an increase of 50 cents a day each. I don't think the people of Atlanta should be called upon to make additional sacrifices to raise salaries at this time, and I do not believe the public will appreciate the fact that these men have stopped a vital service which if arrested too long will endanger the health of every citizen of this city."

Only about 25 tons of garbage found its way to the incinerator during the day, it was reported last night, as against an average of about 400 tons a day for this season of the year.

Not only will about 400 tons of garbage accumulate every 24 hours if the strike continues, but the cleaning of about 200 curb-miles of streets a day will be suspended, Cates said. The department cleans both sides of about 100 miles of streets a day, which is double figured from the two curb lines on every paved street.

Employes Face Lay-off.

Cates laid plans to begin banking the fires at the city incinerator tonight, unless it was indicated that near-normal movement of garbage can be resumed this morning. Forty-six stokers, engineers, electricians and others employed at the incinerator may be laid off if the strike continues.

The garbage collectors now make an average of $2.50 a day, and when council failed to meet their demands for a raise of $3 a day, they walked off their jobs.

Last year, they threatened to strike, but city administration leaders assembled hastily and agreed to raise them 25 cents a day, and averted a showdown.

Cates said he would attempt to move garbage in the thickly congested commercial area downtown every day, but appealed for public co-operation in the crisis if an adjustment of the controversy is not reached immediately and if the city cannot employ enough men to service the outlying districts.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

City's Garbage Collections Still Tied Up

$10,781 in Pay Raises for Other Workers Proposed.

Three city council committees yesterday recommended raising 295 Negro employes of the municipality $10,781 for the remainder of the year even while Mayor LeCraw was pleading with 178 striking Negro garbage collectors, who have practically paral- collections since Tuesday, to turn to their jobs at the same salary they are now receiving.

JUL 26 1941

The strikers remained adamant in refusing [illegible] return to work.

Under a recommendation of the sanitary committee, the strikers would get a 25-cents-a-day increase instead of the 50 cents demanded. The committee's recommendation would cost $6,460 for the remainder of the year.

35

In addition, the water committee recommended that 38 Negro employes be raised $2,661 and the construction department that 79 Negroes be raised $1,660 for the remainder of the year. The two latter proposals would give the employes an income of $15 a week, the same salary the garbage collectors now receive.

Mayor LeCraw has insisted that no compromise be made with the striking employes, charging them with the responsibility of imperiling the health of the community by striking during the heaviest season of the year, but the committee actions yesterday ignored the mayor's stand and sought to compromise the issues.

Other developments were:

1. The committee asked Councilman John A. White, finance committee chairman, to call his committee to meet Monday morning to consider these and other raises, and later in the afternoon asked Mayor LeCraw to call a special meeting of council to vote the changes Monday afternoon.

2. Mayor LeCraw declined to sanction the proposed program late yesterday, saying he wished to study the situation more thoroughly. White said he would call the finance committee to meet, but warned the city has no money to appropriate, but that it could be taken from the interest account if it is replaced before interest comes due next January.

3. The plan to place city prisoners on the trucks to collect the garbage fell through when truck drivers, affiliated with AFL, declined to drive the trucks if prisoners were used in collections.

JUL 26 1941

4. Mr. and Mrs. Private Citizen loaded the garbage on the trucks themselves when garbage trucks drove over the town collecting such refuse as the citizens and business houses could load with their own labor.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Incinerator Is Forced To Close

352

Atlanta's garbage collection continued at a halt Wednesday and the strike spread to the city incinerator and forced a shutdown there.

Sanitary Chief H. J. Cates reported that nearly all of the city's 52 garbage trucks were idle as the strike went into its second day.

JUL 24 1941

Twenty-two [illegible] at the incinerator plant walked off the job Wednesday morning, protesting that City Council had not granted them a 50-cent-a-day raise and joining 175 truck laborers, who are demanding a 50-cent raise of their $2.50-a-day wages.

Even though the city advertised for new men, only a handful of applicants responded and the replacement project was an admitted failure.

It was reported that city officials were conferring last night on the possibility of using city prisoners in the garbage collection. A report earlier Wednesday said that such an attempt to make the prisoners replace the sanitary department workers failed. Mayor LeCraw summoned high department officials for the conference.

Only about six crews worked Wednesday as the strikers continued their reported intimidation and threats to strike-breakers. Downtown business houses were loading refuse on the trucks that the city sent to the section to move the rapidly accumulating garbage.

Several crews worked during the night Tuesday, but efforts to collect anywhere near the total garbage failed. One man was struck by a brick while working. There was no attempt to collect garbage [illegible] residential areas.

JUL 24 1941

An attempt to get the WPA to send labor rolls to assist the city likewise failed, when officials declined on grounds that a federal agency could not enter a strike controversy.

Homeowners have been asked not to pile rubbish in the streets, as no street cleaning work can be done.

As yet, City Council has not acted in the case, although it considered proposals to raise City Hall workers' salaries under $100 a month to that mark as a minimum.

According to the Sanitary Department chief, about 400 tons of garbage are taken in at the city incinerator daily. Only 25 tons were hauled there Tuesday and with workers striking there, no turnover was possibble.

JUL 24 1941

Strikers told the WORLD Wednesday that they did not get 15 days' absence sick leaves, as previously reported by the press.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Workers Remain Idle; Garbage Cans Pile Up

35

3 City Council Committees Ask Increase of 25c

The first "break" in the four-day-old deadlock between city officials and 175 striking garbagemen came Friday when three city council committees recommended raising the workers 25 cents a day.

JUL 26 1941

The men had asked for an increase of 50 cents a day over their present scale of $2.50 per day.

The raise would total $6,460 additional expenditure to the city, it was estimated.

In addition the water committee recommended that 38 of their workers be raised $2,661 and the construction dpartment that 79 workers be raised $1,660 for the remainder of the year. The two latter proposals would give the employes an income of $15 per week, the same salary the garbage collectors are receiving now.

Grim determination to stay out until their demands for fifty-cents a day increase had been met was expressed by more than 160 of the striking garbagemen at a meeting held early last night on Ashby street.

Employed as "pick-up" men on the city's 52 garbage trucks, the men entered their fourth day of idleness Friday as trash continued to accumulate on the city's streets. The men walked out Tuesday when demands for an increase from the present $2.50 a day to $3.00 a day were not met.

JUL 26 1941

The meeting climaxed a day marked by a series of conferences in which a basis of settlement of the dispute was sought.

WAIT FOR MAYOR

Driven by police from the City Garage spot on East Hunter St., where they had been congregating since the walkout, the men waited at the City Hall early Friday morning for the arrival of the mayor.

Shortly before ten o'clock a group of the strikers were given an audience with Mayor Roy LeCraw. Carefully avoiding mention of the chief issue of the fifty-cent increase, the mayor during the conference promised the men a three-point agreement, if they returned to work at once.

This agreement included (1) a 44-hour week to replace the present schedule of 48 hours: 2) sick leave of 15 days a year, which the mayor had previously told newspapermen they were already receiving; and 3) seniority rights.

This proposal was flatly turned down by the unanimous vote of the men, who ballotted as they stood in the mayor's chambers.

Efforts of the city to obtain other workers as strike-breakers were admitted failures. The proposal to use prisoners to load the garbage met another snag Friday when the Sanitary Department's union truck drivers refused to operate the truck with this type of laborers.

NO PRISONERS!

An earlier objection to prison labor had been registered by housewives, who asserted that they did not want prisoners coming near their homes to pick up the trash.

A solid front was presented by the striking workmen at the meeting held Friday night. Declaring that they had registered no protest as to length of hours they had to work, the workmen reiterated that their single demand was the fifty-cent per day increase.

JUL 26 1941

Several speakers were heard, all of whom pledged the support of the citizens of the community in the fight for increased pay.

Meantime Sanitary Chief H. J. Cates appealed to the general public for assistance in the moving of the rapidly accumulating garbage.

Declaring the situation may become serious from the health standpoint, Chief Cates, asked citizens to cooperate by placing their garbage on the curb, so it will be easier to collect.

JUL 26 1941

Twenty-five of the trucks, according to Chief Cates Friday, were hauling from garbage from downtown businesses, who agreed to furnish labor to load the rubbish.

This collecting of garbage is encountering another bottleneck by the fact that twenty-two incinerator workers are also on strike, demanding an increase from $2.75 to $3.25 per day.

35i-1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Pay Increase Of 50c Per Day Is Given Okeh

Jul 27

"Had Gun at My Back," Says Mayor After Agreement

35c

The garbage workers' strike came to an end Saturday when city officials agreed to raise the salaries of the sanitary department employees in accordance with the demands. Every condition imposed by the workers will go into effect at a special meeting of city council at 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, according to promises made by the officials.

The strike started Tuesday morning and during the interim between that day and Saturday thousands of tons of garbage accumulated about the city, facing it with a growing threat to health.

BEGIN COLLECTING GARBAGE

Immediately following the official's agreement to the raises, the workers returned to collecting the accumulated garbage. They will work today to relieve the congestion which mounted during their strike.

Councilman John A. White, chairman of the finance committee of Council, said he has agreed to place salary raises aggregating $48,000 for the remainder of the year for [illegible] employes before the municipal governing body, and recommend passage.

It was believed that capitulation of the city administration in the face of the growing menace to health forestalled a spread of agitation for more pay in other divisions in the city government..

"GUN IN MY RIBS"

Mayor LeCraw, agreeing specifically to 285 of the raises, said when interviewed Saturday: "I'm doing so only because a vital health service in behalf of the citizens of Atlanta is threatened; in fact, only because they have a gun in my ribs."

Members of Council agreed to grant pay raises to 172 garbage collectors, who left work Tuesday morning because their demands for an additional 50-cents-a-day to their existing $2.50 wage was not met. Under the new agreement, they will get the $3 a day contended for.

Fifty-two white truck drivers will get 75 cents a day raise, pushing their salaries to $5 a day. Thirty-six mechanics working at the city garage, water, construction and other departments were promised 10 cents an hour hike.

GET IMMEDIATE INCREASE

An attempt to get the men to return to work pending consideration of Council Monday and under a condition that the pay raise rate would begin August 1 failed. The men forced the city administration to agree that the increases start immediately.

The garbage workers will meet at the Masonic Temple club room Wednesday night reportedly to effect an independent labor organization. Such an attempt was begun Saturday night. During the whole of their fight for increased pay last week, they had no specific leaders and organizational set-up. Asked by the Mayor who the leaders were, they replied, "We are all leaders."

JUL 27 1941

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Garbage Strike Ends; Workers To Get Raises

35a

'They Have Gun in My Ribs,' Mayor LeCraw Declares.

A four-day-old strike in the city sanitary department was broken yesterday when city officials agreed to meet every condition imposed by workers at a special meeting of city council at 3:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Workers returned immediately to collection of the 2,000 tons of accumulated garbage, and will work all day today to relieve the

GEORGIA

congestion which mounted while they were off their jobs.

Councilman John A. White, finance committee chairman, said he has agreed to place salary raises aggregating about $48,000 for the remainder of the year for 383 employes before council, and recommend passage.

Capitulation of the city administration in the face of the growing threat to the health of citizens because of the accumulation of about 400 tons of garbage daily, not only appeared to have adjusted existing labor difficulties, but was believed by White and other council members to have forestalled a spread of agitation for more pay in other divisions.

Mayor LeCraw agreed specifically to 285 of the raises, saying, "I'm doing so only because a vital health service in behalf of the citizens of Atlanta is threatened; in fact, only because they have a gun in my ribs."

Although the raises will amount to only $48,000 for the year, they will push payroll account additions up about $124,000 for next year, including $3,750 in raises already granted by the municipality.

White and other members of council yesterday agreed to grant pay raises to 172 Negro garbage collectors, who had paralyzed collections since Tuesday morning, and the men agreed to return to work. Fifty-two truck drivers will get 75 cents a day raise, pushing their salaries to $5 a day. Thirty-six mechanics working at the city garage, water, construction and other departments were promised 10 cents an hour hike.

JUL 27 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Atlanta Negroes, Whites Refuse to Split, Win Strike

35a

Atlanta, Ga.

Workers Correspondence Department:

Negro and white unity again demonstrates success to Southern workers. The 175 Negro sanitary workers striking for 50 cents a day increase, white boilermakers, machinists and blacksmiths in [illegible] Water Department striking for 10 cents an hour increase, and Motor Transport and Parks Departments striking for 75 cents a day increase—all win their demands when the City Council of Atlanta in special session on Saturday afternoon granted all demands!

Southern Labor

First, the 175 Negro garbage collectors walked out last Tuesday asking for 50 cents a day increase in pay. They had been discriminated against by City Council decision to raise all city employes monthly incomes up to $100 and a two weeks sick leave with pay. Last year these same workers struck for 25 cents a day increase, and got it. Their pay of $15 a week is too low for them since living costs and taxes take more from their tables and backs.

JIM CROW FAILS

Mayor Roy LeCraw over the radio appealed to race prejudice and threatened to use city prison labor to break the strike. He failed to obtain WPA labor as strikebreakers. He failed to use prison labor successfully, because the truck drivers refused to drive trucks with them. The Mayor even visited Negro workers homes begging them to come back to work at the same wage with a promised increase for next January if cost of living rose in the meantime, and with two weeks sick leave, and without loss of pay for the five days striking.

These determined and confident workers refused his demands point blank. These workers refused to let the A. F. of L. officials send their case to the Mayor's "voluntary mediation" board for settlement or compromise. Even at the last minute, just about noon, the Mayor promised them a raise effective Aug. 1, but these well organized and solid working men refused to take the Mayor's verbal promise. The Mayor called a special session of the City Council together with Councilman White to consider the strike and, then the demands met.

The Mayor said at the Council meeting, when informed that the boiler makers and machinists had also struck in solidarity with the sanitary workers and were asking for 75 cents a day increase, "with a gun in my back," I'll give in.

One hour's back and forth frantic telephoning by the Mayor and the workers' representatives nearly disrupted the City's normal functioning.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

This has been one of the greatest strikes in Atlanta because of the close solidraity of workers, Negro and white. The public at large strongly supported the workers by refusing to let strike-breaking men haul away garbage from residential sections.

Last night 160 of the striking Negro sanitary workers met at the SNYC Atlanta Federation (Southern Negro Youth Congress) to determine to hold out to the last ounce of strength. Offers of surrender made by prominent Negro "leaders" to give in to the City at this time of stress, war-time needs, [illegible] were [illegible] Council to not do "anything that would play into the hands of the Negro-baiters and Talmadgeites" was flatly and hotly turned down by the Federation leaders. The 160 workers crowded into the front rooms of a private home, cheered to the ceiling and roared approval of this stand.

Within ten minutes after the agreement was formally passed and the demands granted by the City Council in special session at 3:30 this afternoon, the City's 52 trucks were rolling to collect garbage!

CORRESPONDENT.

AUG 4 1941

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro And White Unity Wins Strike Victory For Negro Sanitary Workers In Atlanta

ATLANTA, Ga.—Negro and white unity, and labor solidarity keynoted the successful strike of 175 Negro workers in the Atlanta City Sanitary Department that ended with special session of City Council called for Monday at 3:30. Quiet and calm of city fathers was restored for first time in five days when agreement to grant demands were met by special action of the mayor, Roy LeCraw Saturday afternoon.

Shortly before noon city administration leaders agreed to present and recommend wage increases for employees on strike.

Tuesday of last week 175 Negro sanitary workers who lift garbage into trucks walked out for a 50c a day increase in pay. All other city departments except those in which Negro workers predominated had been granted wage and salary increases with a minimum of $100 per month and with a two weeks leave with pay. Saturday morning the strike was about to spread to three other departments and threatened to disrupt essential city services.

The white truck drivers refused to move the city trucks when the Mayor tried to use city prison labor as strikebreakers. The WPA refused to supply strikebreakers also. The Mayor tried to arm the trucks one day, but the strikebreakers on only two trucks went out. And, these two had to give up the attempt when they were routed from yards by irate citizens and strikers.

In some neighborhoods, housewives refused to permit the strikebreakers to enter home premises to collect garbage. Many telephone calls nearly jammed the main telephone lines into the City Hall requesting the Mayor and Sanitary Departments to grant demands of the striking workers.

The Mayor's appeal over radio, free time, to the public and to race prejudices, also failed.

SNYC SUPPORT

On Friday night 160 of the 175 sanitary workers met at the home of the Southern Negro Youth Congress Atlanta Federation to consider plans for successful ending of the strike. Full and enthusiastic support to the strikers and their demands was given by the Federation. John Wesley Dobbs, leader of the Atlanta Civil-Politcial League, Negro voting league, nearly broke himself with the strikers when he urged strikers to tone down their demands and submit to the City Administration and not raise issues that would play into the hands of the Talmadgeites, etc. The workers booed him down and roundly applauded the Federation leader, Miss Bertha Boozer when she pledged full aid of her organization to their strike and to their families.

Councilman John A. White, chariman of the Council's Finance Committee, told the leaders representing the workers that his committee would approve increases as requested if they would return to work immediately.

The Mayor told them while he was opposed to any increases he would approve them if Council acted favorably Monday, but pointed out that he was doing so "with a gun in his back."

The delegation then went back to the City Garage and prepared to return to work, but the strikers again declined unless their proposed increases started immediately—instead of August 1st.

A series of frantic telephone calls between the labor leaders and ise that the Negro workers' increase ise that the Negro workers increase should begin immediately. In 10 minutes every truck was rolling out on the job with a crew of happy white truck drivers who had been granted a 75c a day increase in pay, and the happy and successful garbage collectors who had been granted (promised) a wage increase of 50c a day.

The bolier makers, machinists and blacksmiths who had joined the strikers won a 10c an hour increase.

The sanitary workers had refused to let the A. F. of L. labor leaders carry their case to the Mayor's "voluntary mediation board" to bargain and compromise away their demands. The strike was noted for its democratic action and decisions all the way through. The sanitary workers have not affiliated themselves with any labor group as yet.

332

Hapeville, Ga. Statesman
July 29, 1941

Negro Strikers Imperil Health Of Quarter Million Atlantians

Concern Expressed Over Strike Without Warning And In Violation Of American Federation Of Labor Policies. Police Escort Was Necessary For Garbage Trucks.

A walkout without any character of warning last week by 750 negro garbage collectors tied up the collection of garbage in the business section and residence districts of Atlanta, causing great alarm on the part of health officials.

Mayor LeCraw, in a radio address Thursday night, stated that the negroes had walked out without a moment's warning, demanding a 20 per cent increase in pay. The negroes now draw $2.50 per day, with 15 days sick leave each year with pay, according to Mayor LeCraw, a figure above the prevailing wage scale for negro labor.

Refuse to Arbitrate

The negroes have no union, Mayor LeCraw said, but seemed to act in perfect unison but in violation of the usual methods employed by organized labor. When the Mayor suggested the dispute be referred to the labor mediation board the negroes flatly refused. The affair has taken on the aspects of a cross between a sit-down strike and a walkout, since the negroes mill around the trucks to frighten any other negroes who might take the jobs. It was necessary to furnish what few garbage trucks that were pressed into the most necessary and vital service in certain crowded districts with a police escort.

Negroes Encouraged

Some see in the affair the first fruits of the fight on Talmadge to stop the trend to negro and white intermingling in the schools. The negroes probably felt that they could find strong support in flaunting local government since their "rights" have been so thunderously championed by local white people and editors. Negro papers have taken courage to denounce the state government and Talmadge and these papers, it is thought, have fanned the flames to the extent that these negroes feel that they are in position to make demands and to sidestep the legal channels set up to arbitrate such matters.

These negro papers have witnessed the extravagant editorials, letters from subscribers, colored news stories and denunciatory diatribes in current issues of Atlanta dailies and have reproduced them, with their own additions, until they, as well as these negro laborers, have misjudged the attitude of Georgia people. They are not wholly to blame when the simple failure to hire two college professors on account of interracial activities brings such extravagant statements as "Education Lynched in Georgia," "Dictator Tears Up Schools," "Sad Day For Georgia," et cetera. Should a fifth columnist have blown up the Panama Canal, burned Atlanta to the ground and dynamited the Capitol in Washington the Atlanta newspapers could scarce have found harder adjectives and epithets to hurl than they have employed against Talmadge for simply letting out two college professors. These ignorant negroes have simply misjudged.

Sowing the Wind

It is genuinely hoped in all circles that these people, most of them well meaning, will temper their language. While anyone with a thimble full of sense will know that the educational system of Georgia cannot be destroyed by eliminating any two professors (or any half dozen, for that matter), there are ignorant negroes who do not know enough to see that they are simply muckraking against Talmadge. They think these people are putting on the show for them, and the negro newspapers are encouraging them in it. There is such a thing as sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind.

JUL 31 1941

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro And White Unity Wins Strike Victory For Negro Sanitary Workers In Atlanta

ATLANTA, Ga.—Negro and white unity, and labor solidarity keynoted the successful strike of 175 Negro workers in the Atlanta City Sanitary Department that ended with special session of City Council called for Monday at 3:30. Quiet and calm of city fathers was restored for first time in five days when agreement to grant demands were met by special action of the mayor, Roy LeCraw Saturday afternoon.

Shortly before noon city administration leaders agreed to present and recommend wage increases for employees on strike.

Tuesday of last week 175 Negro sanitary workers who lift garbage into trucks walked out for a 50c a day increase in pay. All other city departments except those in which Negro workers predominated had been granted wage and salary increases with a minimum of $100 per month and with a two weeks leave with pay. Saturday morning the strike was about to spread to three other departments and threatened to disrupt essential city services.

The white truck drivers refused to move the city trucks when the Mayor tried to use city prison labor as strikebreakers. The WPA refused to supply strikebreakers also. The Mayor tried to arm the trucks one day, but the strikebreakers on only two trucks went out. And, these two had to give up the attempt when they were routed from yards by irate citizens and strikers.

In some neighborhoods, housewives refused to permit the strikebreakers to enter home premises to collect garbage. Many telephone calls nearly jammed the main telephone lines into the City Hall requesting the Mayor and Sanitary Departments to grant demands of the striking workers.

The Mayor's appeal over radio. free time, to the public and to race prejudices, also failed.

SNYC SUPPORT

On Friday night 160 of the 175 sanitary workers met at the home of the Southern Negro Youth Congress Atlanta Federation to consider plans for successful ending of the strike. Full and enthusiastic support to the strikers and their demands was given by the Federation. John Wesley Dobbs, leader of the Atlanta Civil-Politcial League, Negro voting league, nearly broke himself with the strikers when he urged strikers to tone down their demands and submit to the City Administration and not raise issues that would play into the hands of the Talmadgeites, etc. The workers booed him down and roundly applauded the Federation leader, Miss Bertha Boozer when she pledged full aid of her organization to their strike and to their families.

Councilman John A. White, chariman of the Council's Finance Committee, told the leaders representing the workers that his committee would approve increases as requested if they would return to work immediately.

The Mayor told them while he was opposed to any increases he would approve them if Council acted favorably Monday, but pointed out that he was doing so "with a gun in his back."

The delegation then went back to the City Garage and prepared to return to work, but the strikers again declined unless their proposed increases started immediately—instead of August 1st.

A series of frantic telephone calls between the labor leaders and ise that the Negro workers' increase ise that the Negro workers increase should begin immediately. In 10 minutes every truck was rolling out on the job with a crew of happy white truck drivers who had been granted a 75c a day increase in pay, and the happy and successful garbage collectors who had been granted (promised) a wage increase of 50c a day.

The bolier makers, machinists and blacksmiths who had joined the strikers won a 10c an hour increase.

The sanitary workers had refused to let the A. F. of L. labor leaders carry their case to the Mayor's "voluntary mediation board" to bargain and compromise away their demands. The strike was noted for its democratic action and decisions all the way through. The sanitary workers have not affiliated themselves with any labor group as yet.

JUL 31 1941

Hapeville, Ga. Statesman
July 29, 1941

Negro Strikers Imperil Health Of Quarter Million Atlantians

Concern Expressed Over Strike Without Warning And In Violation Of American Federation Of Labor Policies. Police Escort Was Necessary For Garbage Trucks.

A walkout without any character of warning last week by 750 negro garbage collectors tied up the collection of garbage in the business section and residence districts of Atlanta, causing great alarm on the part of health officials.

Mayor LeCraw, in a radio address Thursday night, stated that the negroes had walked out without a moment's warning, demanding a 20 per cent increase in pay. The negroes now draw $2.50 per day, with 15 days sick leave each year with pay, according to Mayor LeCraw, a figure above the prevailing wage scale for negro labor.

Refuse to Arbitrate

The negroes have no union, Mayor LeCraw said, but seemed to act in perfect unison but in violation of the usual methods employed by organized labor. When the Mayor suggested the dispute be referred to the labor mediation board the negroes flatly refused. The affair has taken on the aspects of a cross between a sit-down strike and a walkout, since the negroes mill around the trucks to frighten any other negroes who might take the jobs. It was necessary to furnish what few garbage trucks that were pressed into the most necessary and vital service in certain crowded districts with a police escort.

Negroes Encouraged

Some see in the affair the first fruits of the fight on Talmadge to stop the trend to negro and white intermingling in the schools. The negroes probably felt that they could find strong support in flaunting local government since their "rights" have been so thunderously championed by local white people and editors. Negro papers have taken courage to denounce the state government and Talmadge and these papers, it is thought, have fanned the flames to the extent that these negroes feel that they are in position to make demands and to sidestep the legal channels set up to arbitrate such matters.

These negro papers have witnessed the extravagant editorials, letters from subscribers, colored news stories and denunciatory diatribes in current issues of Atlanta dailies and have reproduced them, with their own additions, until they, as well as these negro laborers, have misjudged the attitude of Georgia people. They are not wholly to blame when the simple failure to hire two college professors on account of interracial activities brings such extravagant statements as "Education Lynched in Georgia," "Dictator Tears Up Schools," "Sad Day For Georgia," et cetera. Should a fifth columnist have blown up the Panama Canal, burned Atlanta to the ground and dynamited the Capitol in Washington the Atlanta newspapers could scarce have found harder adjectives and epithets to hurl than they have employed against Talmadge for simply letting out two college professors. These ignorant negroes have simply misjudged.

Sowing the Wind

It is genuinely hoped in all circles that these people, most of them well meaning, will temper their language. While anyone with a thimble full of sense will know that the educational system of Georgia cannot be destroyed by eliminating any two professors (or any half dozen, for that matter), there are ignorant negroes who do not know enough to see that they are simply muckraking against Talmadge. They think these people are putting on the show for them, and the negro newspapers are encouraging them in it.

There is such a thing as sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Dining Car Employes Ask Change In Wage-Hour Law. Fear Worse Fate

JAN 27 1941 JAN [illegible] 1941 JAN 27 1941

CHICAGO, Jan. —A. N. P.) Recent announcements by the wage and hour division of the U. S. Department of Labor that more than $7,000,000 will be added to the pay of railroad workers through establishment of the new minimum pay of 36 cents per hour in March are viewed with apprehension by the Joint Council of Dining Car employes.

According to Richard W. Smith secretary treasurer of the organization, this may result in a smaller income for many of the 14,000 Negro dining car workers throughout the nation instead of an increase in monthly pay.

"While dining car employes on a number of roads earn less than 36 cents per hour and should be entitled to this minimum rate, the railroads have and will oppose paying it on the grounds they furnish such employes room and board for they have consistently refuseed to pay the 30 cent minimum now in effect as is designated for all railroad employes under current terms of the act," Mr. Smith said.

He pointed out that certain roads pay such employs 25 cents contending the remaining five cents per hour is taken up in room and board. Claims in every such instance have been filed against the railroads by the joint council Mr. Smith asserted that room and board given employes has never been a matter for arbitration when employes negotiated with the railroads for wages, but was furnished by the railways to facilitate their business.

The only solution is to have the law amended so that railroad employes will be exempted from paying the companies for room and board, the official declared. The council is planning a vigorous fight to this end before the wage and hour division in Washington Mr. Smith said that when track workers were not paid the minimum because railroads contended shacks were maintained for their use as lodging places, complaints were filed and these workers were awarded $200 each. This, he feels, establishes a precedent for a similar decision in the case of dining car employes.

At the same time, the minimum of 36 cents an hour may not actually increase an employe's individual earnings even if paid, the official asserted, because the railroads will then reduce each individual's working hours per month with a subsequent loss of opportunity to make tips on the part of dining car waiters.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Color Ban At Club, Union Changes Party

JAN 11 1941

CHICAGO (ANP)—Discrimination was given a punch in the eye by the International Fur and Leather union, Local No. 45, recently when the Evans Fur Co., the largest retail furrier in the middle west, sponsored a Christmas party for its employes at the exclusive Colonl club and the Colony club refused to permit the attendance of two Negro workers employed in the Evans factory.

Strong resentment was manifested by the members of the union in the Evans shop. When the union was called upon to ask these two Negro workers to voluntarily refuse to come in order to faciliate the arrangements, Abe Feingass manager of Local No. 45, refused to acquisese and declared that the fur factory will not attend such an affair and, futhermore, would call upon its members and the National Negro congress to picket the Colony club.

The workers of Evans, when advised at a shop meeting of the position of the union, gave it staunch support and immediately volunteered for picket duty. This resulted in the company cancelling its arrangements with the clug and making the party in another hall where every worker attended.

The two Negro women involved were Mrs. Attilla Greene and Mrs Anna Bell, both long-standing and active members of the union.

In appraising the situation, Fienglass declared, "The trade union movement cannot only give lip service to equality but must be ready to fight for what equality which is so essential to its very life and to the unification of all labor."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

2,000 Negro Harvesters In Chicago Strike

MAR 13 1941

CIO Workers Demand End Of Bias In Union Groups

CHICAGO, (ANP)—Equal rights for better job opportunities and higher wages for Negro workers are included in demands of the CIO Farm Equipment Workers union now on strike at the two Chicago plants of the International Harvester corporation.

Some 2,000 Negro workers are included in the 12,000 strikers at the McCormick and tractor works plants.

"The CIO is fighting to break through the ban on Negro workers," declared Pleass Kellogg, Negro union leader and a member of the executive board of the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing committee.

FIGHT IMPORTANT

"This fight becomes all the more important today when large corporations are getting government defense orders, paid for with public funds, and denying the rights of Negro workers to secure jobs and higher wages."

MAR 13 1941

Kellogg and a number of other Negro workers are playing a leading role in the Harvester strike.

"We have found our place fighting shoulder to shoulder with the white workers for higher wages and better conditions," stated Fred Moore, a union shop steward at McCormick works. "It is unfortunate that racial barriers are still maintained in some trade unions, but the policy of the CIO is steadfastly against any discrimination for race, color or creed."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

CHICAGOANS STAGE SIT-DOWN STRIKE

Negro Members of Hod Carriers Union Want More Work

MAY 2 1941

CHICAGO. — (ANP) — Because only slightly more than 300 Negroes are among the 17,000 workers employed on the $52,000 government munitions construction projects in Wilmington and Elwood, Negro members of the International Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' union staged a sit-down strike April 10 in the union hall to enforce their demand on union officials to place them on jobs. Urban league officials said Thursday that another such demonstration will be conducted next Tuesday if Negro workers are not given their fair share of employment on the two projects.

MAY 2 1941

While the two contracting companies insist that they are not excluding Negroes from the work, union officials say they would assign them to the jobs but the companies don't want them, an Urban league spokesman said.

Peter Fosco, international representative of the union, said: "The matter is settled, forget it. Confidentially the companies don't want Negroes. We did not want to stage a strike against anything as important as the munitions plant construction projects so we took a little time to convince them they should hire Negroes. It took about three weeks, but everything is O. K. now. No trouble, no bother, and everything is fine."

MAY 2 1941

In contradiction of Urban league figures, Fosco said that there were only 3,000 laborers employed on the two projects, 250 of which were Negroes. He claimed that the strike on April 10 was merely a meeting to explain things to Negro workers at which he told them they were entitled to jobs. On the other hand, Urban league officials said Fosco was not even present in the hall the day of the sit-down.

Spokesmen for the construction companies denied any policy of discrimination against Negro workers. T. W. Piper, employment supervisor of Wilmington contractors, stated: "We have hired members of the race since the day we started construction. The number has been small but the Negro population of this area is not large. Our contract calls for no discrimination against any race and we live up to it. The union or someone is trying to pass the buck to us."

Red Caps' Union Votes to Strike

SEP 9 1941

By the Associated Press.

CHICAGO, Sept. 9.—The United Transport Service Employees of America, independent union of Red Caps, announced today that its 3500 members had voted approximately 95 per cent in favor of a strike to support wage increase demands. No strike date was set.

SEP 9 1941

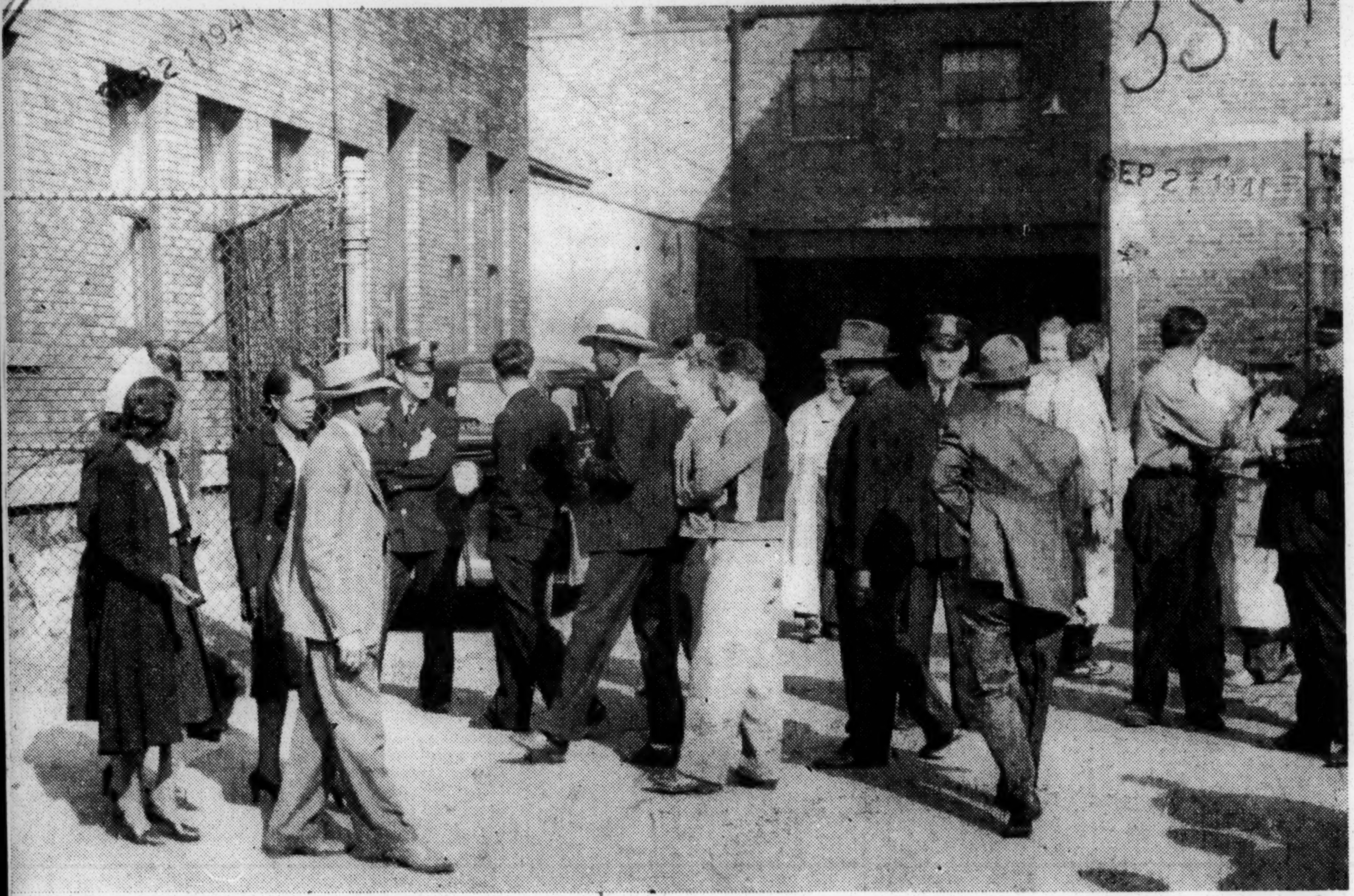
The Red Caps followed the procedure of 19 brotherhoods whose 1,250,000 members authorized a strike after wage increase demands were rejected by rail management.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

38

SCENE AT PACKING HOUSE STRIKE

SEP 2 1941



The above scene is at the Illinois Meat Co., where a mammoth strike, now entering its second week, has grown to such proportions as to require a detachment of several hundred policemen twenty-four hours each day. The walkout also affects two other concerns, namely The Agar Packing and Provision Co., and Brennan Packing Co. Following the first two days of "wholesale" picketing the companies secured an injunction restraining more than a single picket being at an entrance at any one time. However, early today (Thursday), the strikers, numbering more than five hundred, broke the injunction, marching in protest before the plants of the offending companies for several hours. The strike is reported to have been called due to the ousting by the companies of several union members for their instigation of a previous walkout. —Lewis Photo.

35i-1941 ILLINOIS

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Insurance Agents Join Chicago CIO Union

DEC 3 1941

CIO Office Union Demands Chicago Negro Company Rehire Fired Workers, Hold Poll, Grant Wage Increases

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Dec. 2.—Filing charges of unfair labor practices against the Supreme Liberty Life Company, large Negro insurance firm here, employes represented by the United Office and Professional Workers, Local 24, went before the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board yesterday seeking reinstatement of three employes allegedly discharged for union activity by the company.

The workers are also petitioning for a Labor Board election to determine the bargaining agent.

Representatives of the workers stated this week that they are being paid $62.50 per month, out of which the company deducts the premiums on compulsory insurance policies and fees for membership in a company controlled credit association.

DEC 3 1941

ASK MINIMUM WAGE

The union is asking for a weekly salary minimum of $21.50, graduated wage scale for longer service, seniority rights, vacations with pay, and no dismissals without proper hearing.

DEC 3 1941

Charges against the company were filed after Minnie Gray, Lois Washington, and Rhea Fowlkes were dismissed allegedly for union activity. It is charged that the company is using coercive methods to prevent workers from joining the union.

Representing the employes at the hearing were Frances R. Covington, Lois Washington, Verna Mae Wilson, Cretora Hayes, Robert Goodman, International Organizer, and Attorney Irving Myers.

DEC 3 1941

Harry H. Pace, president; W. Ellis Stewart, secretary and Earl B. Dickerson, vice-president and general counsel, represented the insurance company.

35i-1941 ILLINOIS

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

North Carolina News

JAN 18 1941

GARMENT WORKERS WIN—An epic fight came to a successful conclusion for these girls and their 400 colleagues employed in a handkerchief company plant in Chicago as a result of the efforts of a ladies' garment workers' union. The National Labor Relations Board has just ordered them reinstated. The firm was also ordered to cease interference with shop unionization.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Jim Crow Union

MAY 4 - 1941

THE Lower House of the General Assembly passed the Jenkins anti-jim crow labor-union bill last week by a vote of 114 to 0. The measure now goes to the senate for action.

The bill proposes to prevent discrimination against persons seeking to join labor unions on account of race, color or religion.

The bill ought to be passed by the senate. There is no good reason for i defeat. It will only hurt those unions that are violating the spirit of democracy.

MAY 4 - 1941

Strange as it seems, some Negroes are against the proposal. We can see no good reason for such an attitude. They say that labor unions should be permitted to drop their color bars without coercion and by the simple process of education. They forget that labor leaders are slow about becoming educated. Some of them do not want to. While they are making up their minds as to whether they desire to become enlightened Negroes may starve. Then what?

With the rapid strides that labor unions have made within the last few years it is absolutely necessary that Negroes have an unconditional right to join any labor union which their qualifications allow them. If they cannot do this it means that a good many jobs will be taken from them simply because they can not join the unions. Unions dictate the persons to be hired in close-shop agreements. If a man can not join the union he can not work in a good many trades.

It is obvious that if free competition is to exist in the labor market every working person must be given the unlimited privilege of becoming affiliated with the union in which his ability and interests qualify him.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro-White Unity Wins in Leather Plant

Chicago, Workers Coddespondence Dept.:

Working conditions in the Brockton Heel Co. are very bad. This plant manufactures heels and employs about 64 Negroes and eight whites. It is located on Chicago's South Side, [illegible] W. 46th Street.

Mary Curtis, who has been employed here for the last 21 years and her friend Ophelia Engram, who has worked in the plant for 18 years were discharged for union activity on May 23. Bill Hawkins was also fired at this time. The bosses gave little or no reason for dismissal, but it is generally known throughout the plant that their affiliation with the Fur and Leather Workers union was the real reason.

The law says that the minimum wage for these workers is 35c an hour but the workers are paid on a piecework basis. Some of the workers complain that they are not able to make a full pay check of $14 a week, because the piece work prices steadily go down.

JUN 23 1941

The CIO Fur and Leather Workers Union have been organizing this plant and through their militancy the discharged Negro workers have been put back to work. The union will negotiate with the management for better working conditions, vacations, bonuses, wage increases. The workers in this plant seem to be united, black and white to fight for a higher wage and better working conditions.

A South Side Worker.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Red Caps Join Rail Pay Fight; Ask 30¢ Rise

Union Submits Demands to Rail Companies:

3500 Affected

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Ill., June 10.—Organized red caps and train porters today formally notified all railroads with which it has contracts that they demand a 30-cent hourly wage increase in line with the general wage increases being won by labor in many industries.

Spokesmen for the union, the United Transport Service Employes of America, said the increase wage request will affect some 3,500 red caps covered by existing UTSEA agreements with railroad companies and would add about $3,300,000 to their annual earnings. This demand amounts to a pay boost to 70 cents minimum hourly rate or $5.60 a day for red caps and train porters.

The movement for a general wage increase by the UTSEA conforms with the recent movement inaugurated by the operating rail unions a few weeks ago for a flat 30 per cent wage increase in all basic rates of pay. The five transportation unions have requested a wage increase of $168,000,000 annually for 350,000 engine, train and yard service employes. This has been followed by a similar request from the 14 non-operating rail unions and the dining car employes.

ASK EARLY TALKS

In the formal notice to managements of all railroads covered by contracts, the UTSEA specifically requested that "effective July 10, 1941, [illegible] be applied to all rates now in effect an increase of thirty (30) cents an hour, provided however that no employe shall be paid less than seventy (70) cents an hour."

Aside from red caps and train porters a corresponding increase will be demanded for operating employes represented by the UTSEA in the South.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RACE LABOR

SHOULD ORGANIZE, NEGOTIATE AND FIGHT FOR UNION RECOGNITION

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

THERE has been a lot of theorizing about how Negro labor should organize to break down some of the barriers which are raised against them especially in the skilled crafts. Recently I had the pleasure of talking to a group of men in Chicago who have done just that. Without fanfare the Negro electricians, steamfitters, plumbers, lathers, bricklayers and building laborers affiliated themselves in an organization called the American Consolidated Trades Council of Chicago. The purpose of the organization is to integrate Negroes into organized labor and to develop better working conditions and a better bargaining position for organized Negro labor in the Chicago area.

AUG 2 1941

Mr. Cayton

Each one of the affiliated groups was encountering some problem in connection with their regular local union, and all had the common problem of being colored mechanics in the building trades which is for the most part dominated by unions which will not admit Negroes. This was, as a matter of fact, the second step in the attempt of these Negro craftsmen to gain recognition by the unions. The first step had been to organize the Negro electricians, steamfitters, plumbers and bricklayers into independent bargaining units. The third step will be taken when the Negro mechanics break down the last barriers and are allowed to join their white locals.

ON TRADE COUNCIL

In the meantime the various trade groups enjoy a number of different types of relationships with the large white locals. The plumbers and steamfitters have no recognition by the white locals but have been able, since the formation of the A.C.T.C., to place two representatives on the Pipe Trades Council, an organization which governs the working rules of fitters and plumbers. The bricklayers and building labor have full-fledged membership in their white locals (but encounter difficulty in obtaining jobs, which explains why they are in the council) while the electricians have a working agreement with their local which has proven more or less satisfactory since 1928.

AUG 2 1941

CONCERNING the reasons for organizing the Council and the problems to which the Council addresses itself, Herman Washington, the business manager, stated: "We found it difficult for small groups of tradesmen among our people to successfully combat the many obstacles which we encountered in securing jobs...and this was true even when the jobs were in low-cost government housing and in defense work. In order to get more work, and finally to obtain recognition of our groups by their various locals, we decided to band ourselves together in a building trades organization." Energetic young Washington knows how to play the union game, and is dedicated to the task of obtaining more work for all Negro mechanics. Recently when refused jobs on a munitions plant being constructed in Joliet, Washington called Weaver's office in O.P.M., and had Ted Poston fly down to help him negotiate with the unions. They were successful in starting three steamfitters on the job, and after Poston went back, Washington forced the acceptance of two more fitters. In addition to these men, Washington and the Council had already placed 20 Negro bricklayers and 80 building laborers on the job.

AUG 2 1941

HAS TWO WEAPONS

There are two weapons which the A.C.T.C. use in their bargaining with the union groups and the contractors or promoters. First the organized pressure of the Negro community which is expressed through various citizen groups. Both Washington and Herman Dorsey, president of the A.C.T.C., felt that if the Negro community could become organized and articulate on the question of the rights of Negro workers to employment and protection by organized labor much would be accomplished toward breaking these barriers down. The second effective weapon is a diverse publicity which the group can give the unions. No other form of associations are so dependent upon public good will as are unions. When many of the craft organizatinos are attacked from both the right and the left they are willing to make minor concessions to keep the Negro mechanic still.

AUG 2 1941

NOW there is a lot to be learned by the efforts of these men, and if you will allow me to play a school teacher for a few moments, I will point out the most obvious lessons. In the first place it is foolish to stand outside of organized labor, even the A. F. of L. craft union, and even the building trades, and cry about not being allowed to join.

ORGANIZE-NEGOTIATE

The first thing is to organize into whatever sized bargaining units are possible and start negotiating all over the place as did these men. In the second place other groups should follow the above example and consolidate with their small groups to present a united front and then continue to agitate for acceptance in the white locals. In the third place the bargaining of these groups of organized workers with the unions and with management should be done by themselves and not by the interested civic leaders who know nothing about labor bargaining and often care less. All of which goes to show that it is pretty much up to Negro workers themselves as to when they will organize and conduct their own affairs.

AUG 2 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

DINING CAR MEN HAPPY OVER INCREASE

OCT 12 1941

According to Thomas Edge and Sherman Fonville, officials of local 351 Dining Car Cooks and Waiters union, the outlook of the fight to establish a minimum wage of 70 cents per hour for all dining car employes and to raise wages to at least 30 cents per hour, became very bright this week. Representatives of the National Mediation board cooperating with union officials are negotiating agreements with all railroads to grant the same wage increases to dining car cooks and waiters as are given 19 operating and non-operating unions in the industry. This action will follow the report of a special fact-finding committee appointed by Roosevelt to study demands for wage increases by major railroad unions.

In a report to representatives of the Negro Labor council in- which Negroes are involved, Edge vestigating labor disputes in and Fonville stated that several midwestern roads including the Great Northern, the Union Pacific, Illinois Central, and the Soo Line had already signed agreements to extend to cooks and waiters the same increases granted to other railroad workers. Over 3,000 workers, 2,400 of them are Negroes are affected by these agreements.

OCT 12 1941

Ninety-nine per cent of the waiters and cooks in this area have voted to strike is satisfactory wage increases are not received. "Earnings of class A roads have greatly increased," Thomas Edge explained, "the cost of living to the railroad workers has greatly increased; it is simple fairness to raise wages at this time. The average waiter or cook is paid less than $1,000 per year."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

TO CREATE BACKING FOR RAIL STRIKE

NOV 2 1941

Aroused by what union circles in Chicago regard as a "shockingly inadequate" counter proposal of the railroads to their demands for a flat 30 cents on the hour increase in wages, Thomas Edge and John Yancy, representing local unions of Dining Car Cooks and Waiters, and Red Caps respectively, took steps this week to strengthen their case through a direct appeal to public opinion This action started when F. G. Gurley, representing the railroads stated before President Roosevelt's fact-finding committee that the roads are willing to raise wages between 6 and 5 per cent only.

On Sunday both Yancy and Edge went before the Negro Labor council to explain not only the basis of the demands of their unions for sweeping wage increases, but also to explain the peculiar manner in which Negro workers are handicapped for collective bargaining in the railroad industry.

NOV 2 1941

Union observers in the Chicago area point out that even if the maximum 5 per cent proposed by the roads is granted to red caps and dining car employes, which groups include over 75 per cent of all Negroes involved in the strike threat, these workers would have their wages raised to approximately 40 cents per hour.

The object of the appeal to the Negro Labor council is to organize public support for a general railroad strike which has been authorized by well over 90 per cent of the membership of the two unions.

35i-1941
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS

WHY TRAIN 'EM, WHITE UNIONS QUERY

Association of Machinists Opposes NYA "Skilled Labor" Program for Negroes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 29—Although supposedly cooperating with the Labor Division of the Office of Production Management, of which Sidney Hillman is the associate director, the International Association of Machinists is opposed to the training of colored youth as machinists under the program of the National Youth Administration, it was learned Thursday.

F. D. Laudemann, general vice-president of the International Association of Machinists, wrote J. A. Thomas, executive secretary of the Louisville (Kentucky) Urban League that his union did not approve of the training of colored youths as machinists because no opportunities for employment are open to them.

The Committee on the Participation of Negroes in the National Defense Program asked Mr. Hillman to appoint a colored adviser to the committee of advisers assisting in the training-within-industry program and to effect a similar arrangement in the regional areas having large colored populations.

Dr. Robert C. Weaver, chief of the Negro Employment and Training Branch of the Labor Division of OPM, to whom the request was referred, said consideration would be given to it. No colored representative has as yet been appointed to any advisory committee set up by OPM, although labor and management are represented on all of them.

MAY 31 1941
MAY 31 1941

351-1941

INTERNATIONAL HOD CARRIERS', BUILDING and COMMON LABORERS' UNION of AMERICA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NATIONAL CONFAB ELECTS RACE MAN VICE PRESIDENT

35

By E. N. DAVIS

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 25.—Sounding the keynote of condemnation of racketeering within the ranks of the organization and voting to support proposals by Negro delegates that the union would go on record as vigorously continuing the fight to obtain full recognition of Negroes in other unions throughout the country, the Eighth Convention of the International Hod Carriers', Building and Common Laborers' Union of America, brought its first convention in 30 years to a close at the Municipal Auditorium, Friday, in a harmonious manner.

But the meeting did not come to an end without some bitter moments for the convention had been forced into being largely through the opposition brought by Local 147 of New York City, known as the Sand Hogs Union, which wanted President Joseph V. Moreschi "legally" elected. A final resolution, which saw peace and amity restored, was adopted without dissent, authorizing the president to try the local (147) before the executive board on charges of "constitutional irregularities and other violations."

Oddly enough, two of the important figures at the conference were the two sole race representatives from New York, E. E. Williams, secretary-treasurer of Blasters and Drillers' Union No. 29, a staunch administration man and Henry McGregor of Local 147, Sand Hogs Union, leaders of the insurgent movement.

Several hundred race delegates, alternates and their wives were noted in attendance when the sessions got underway Monday. They came from all parts of the country, and the union ran true to form and kept its record unblemished of being a group that believed in true Democracy and Unionism for all. Real comradeship was noticeable, there was no discrimination in evidence, the delegates being seated by states and all working hand in hand.

CLARK GETS OVATION

Chief of the group at the meeting was Charles Clark, member of Local No. 11, Pitsburgh, Pa., who not only serves as chairman of the committee on the General Secretary-Treasurer's report but who is fifth international vice-president of the union. Clark has been a member of the union since 1901 and has served as fifth vice-president since 1921.

The renomination of Clark for re-election, which brought seconds from both white and colored delegates, started a demonstration on Wednesday, which came second only to that accorded President Moreschi upon his renomination and re-election.

Clark was hoisted to the shoulders of several men and paraded around the hall in a five-minute-long period of celebration. After his return to office, hundreds of men rushed to the platform to shake the hands of a man who has been such an important factor to the organization.

Much significance attaches itself to the remarks of Delegate Townsend (white) of Local 261 San Francisco who commented from the floor after the Clark demonstration:

"I would say it is one of the very greatest moments in the life of every Negro here in this auditorium. Somebody might wonder why I would stress the fact that this is a great moment in the lives of Negroes. I will tell you: The demonstration that I saw a few moments ago has given the lie to the prevailing notion of the world that men cannot get along simply because the texture of their skin happens to be black, white or whatever the color may be. The only pity is that two-thirds of the world could not be present here this afternoon to see what has happened here."

SERVED ON ALL COMMITTEES

The true democracy of the ICHBCLU was further demonstrated in the fact that, on every committee, a member of the racial group held a post. Charles Mims, who belongs to Local No. 222, Camden, New Jersey, and serves as president of the South Jersey Council, was named as a member of the important committee on Rules and Order of Business.

Other committee members were: Joe Speed, General President's Report; Charles Clark, Chairman Committee on General Secretary-Treasurer's Report; Charles Harris, Committee on Executive Board Report.

Warren M. Jones, Committee on Constitution and Law; Jas. Hampton, Committee on Resolutions; Milton E. Kelso, Committee on Organization.

Harry Murray, Committee on Grievances, Adjustments, and Appeals; Roy F. Batey, Committee on Education, and Robert Giles, and Jordan Nelson, Sergeant-at-arms.

At the annual banquet, no discrimination was noted in the seating arrangements, another indication of democracy at work with workers.

SEP 27 1941

Cleveland won the next convention although Birmingham made a strong bid for the honor.

Friday night, September 19, Local No. 53, St. Louis, of which John H. Taylor, Rogert Stewart and C. L. Shanks are officers, entertained the visitors with an informal get-together at the West End hotel. Delegate Harry Lumsden of California was special host at the Booker T. Washington hotel on Thursday night.

Regular Delegates included:

ALABAMA: Charles Pope, No. 70, Mobile; William J. O'Neal, No. 559 Birmingham; William Lee and John Holt, Montgomery and James Hampton, Manse Long and Walter Cleere, Tuscumbia.

CALIFORNIA: Harry Lumsden, San Francisco.

DELAWARE: Wiley McDaniels, Clarence Cooper, Leroy Guy and Herman Slinger, Wilmington.

FLORIDA: Jessie Dean, No. 227, Pensacola; Ed Bolden, Jacksonville; Alexander Verdier, Fernandina; Gus Wilson, West Palm Beach; Lewis Ingram and Charles I. Sands, Miami; and Clinton Blackman, Tampa.

GEORGIA: Will Miller, Atlanta.

INDIANA: Ulysses Jenkins, South Bend.

KANSAS: James Cook, Kansas City.

KENTUCKY: George Daugherty and Ben Douglas, No. 86 and Fred Carr and Alfred Reed No. 576, Louisville.

LOUISIANA: Robert S. Green, Edward Miller and Monroe Stringer, No. 689 and Bernard Gainer, Milton E. Kelso and H. L. Johnson No. 153, New Orleans; Henry Green, 207, Lake Charles; and John Jackson and George E. Johnson, Baton Rouge.

MARYLAND: Milton Peppler and George Sparks, No. 912 and Coleman W. Callahan, 194, Baltimore; Theodore Proctor, Hyattsville; William T. Davis, Berwyn; James Francis Brown, La Plata; and Theodore Brown, Annapolis.

MICHIGAN: Scott Poston, Detroit.

MISSOURI: C. H. Harris and O. H. Lacey, No. 555, Kansas City; and John Taylor, Roger Stewart and C. L. Shank, St. Louis.

MISSISSIPPI: Spencer James, No. 145, Jackson; Aaron A. Shannon, No. 183, Corinth.

NEW JERSEY: Alphonse McKee Simmons, Patterson; John Dorsey, Charles Mims, Reginald Hilton and Samuel Goudelak, No. 222 Camden; Alfred Carter, Trenton; Benjamin Anderson and James Barber, Newark.

NEW YORK: E. E. Williams, No. 29 and Henry McGregor, No. 147.

OHIO: Elmer Williams, Raymond Galoway, Edward Jackson Jones and Nelson McGee of Toledo; Fred Perry, Youngstown; Clarence Ashby, Dayton; Otis Wright, Akron; Marshall Cobb, Columbus; John A. Travis, Luke Craig and George Johnson, Cincinnati.

PENNSYLVANIA: Wilson Harper, Robert J. Anderson and Marquis L. Chester of Chester; Thomas Jackson, Harry Murray, John Kelly, Fred Jones, Mack Aaron Bell and Nelson Outer of Philadelphia; Charles E. Clark, Dave Famber, Robert Giles, B. N. Brock, No. 11, Pittsburgh; John Lee Ward, No. 173, Pittsburgh; George L. Chambers and Stanley Neeley, Norristown; Alphonse McKee Simmons, Meadville; and Robert S. Johnson, McKeesport.

TENNESSEE: R. D. Simpson and James Saddler, Memphis; Charles A. Williams, R. F. Batey and Jimmie Franklin of Nashville and Willie Brawley, Chattanooga.

TEXAS: Alfred Taylor and James A. Everson, Houston; Warren Moore Jones, Austin; Elisha Whitmore, Dallas; Reuben Long and Henry Blaine Spriggins, Galveston; Jordon Nelson of Bryan and C. F. James, Corpus Christi.

VIRGINIA: Robert Bates, Quantico.

WEST VIRGINIA: Henry Hicks, Charleston.

WASHINGTON, D. C.: Olin Webb, Lawrence Owens and Robert Lee, No. 456; Joseph Speed, No. 74; Leroy Ford and John Mudd, Sr., No. 115; Earl Brown, No. 571; William S. Burrus, Louis Pinto Sousa and Frank A. Wylie, No. 765.

351-1941

INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

MAY 24 1941

Making Jobs For Negroes

For the first time in history a printing plant under the supervision of the powerful International Typographical Union, A.F. of L. is being manned by 50 % Negro craftsmen. It happened this way:

Early this year several Harlemites, including the publishers of the Amsterdam Star-News, invested money in the Fairlawn Newspaper Printing Corp. of Hawthorne, New Jersey with the stipulation that at least one-half of the employees would be Negroes.

Pursuant to its agreement with the Harlem investors, officials of the printing company—printers of the Star-News—sought to have written into a contract with the Paterson, (N. J.) local, in whose jurisdiction the plant is located, a clause providing for Negro help so as to prevent the seniority rule from barring Negroes in the event the quota of competent craftsmen had not been reached before the agreement was signed.

When the Paterson local declined to write the "Negro Clause" into the contract, Fairlawn officials held their ground and refused to consumate the agreement. Paterson then called on New York's Big Six local to help straighten out the dispute. Meanwhile, Fairlawn hired a number of Negro non-union workers. Big Six asked the publishers of the Amsterdam Star-News to use their influence to compel the plant to sign up, but the publishers refused until after the New York local agreed to provision for Negro employees.

Thus, with the printing plant becoming 100% organized under the I. T.U., an A.F. of L. union, and the business, editorial and advertising departments organized under the American Newspaper Guild of the C.I.O., the Amsterdam Star-News becomes the first Negro newspaper in the country with union labor standards from end to end. This means better salaries and better working conditions for more Negroes. We hope the opening that has been made for Negroes in the Typographical union here will pave the way for more and better jobs for Negro printers throughout the country. We present positive proof that Negro and white technicians can and will work together harmoniously.

35i-1941

KANSAS

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Kansas Legislature by Unanimous Vote Outlaw Labor Unions Barring Negroes

Topeka, Kans. — The legislature of Kansas pointed the way to equal work opportunities last week when it unanimously passed House Bill No. 27 to prohibit racial discrimination by labor unions. The bill was sponsored by Rep. William H. Towers of Kansas City, Kansas, the only Negro member of the legislature.

The act is designed to prohibit any labor organization from being the representative unit of employes for the purpose of collectve bargaining with any employer, if such labor organization discriminates aganst or excludes from its membership any person because of his race or color.

APR 25 1941

Governor Payne H. Ratner signed the bill on Friday, April 4, after it passed the house by a vote of 107-0 and the senate by 31-0.

Teeth In The Law

This law means that laborers in the state of Kansas have a right to join any union for which they are qualified. If they are refused entrance, or if they are not given equal rights and privileges of membership, solely because of race or color, then they may take legal action against such a union through their county attorney or the state attorney-general. Either of three methods of redress are possible, according to the situation; quo warranto, mandamus or injunction.

APR 25 1941

The law is worded as follows:

SECTION 1.—No labor organization of any kind, agency or representative committee or plan, in which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or any other conditions of work, shall be the representative unit for the purpose of collective bargaining in the state of Kansas in any of the trades, crafts, skilled and unskilled, work, labor or employment of any kind or capacity, which in any manner discriminates against or bars, or excludes from its membership any person because of his race or color: **Provided,** That the provisions of this act shall not apply to labor organizations within the provisions of 48 U. S. Statutes 1186 and 49 U. S. Statutes 1189, title 45, sections 151 to 188, both inclusive.

take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

APR 25 1941

The provision in the law excludes from its jurisdiction four groups of railroad employes who are engaged in interstate commerce and therefore not under state regulation.

Kansas

35i

Kansas

351-1941

KENTUCKY

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Mob Chases Union Organizer Out of Town

SEP 13 1941

LOUISVILLE, KY.—J. C. Barrett, white, organizer of lumber workers, chased from this town following fierce street rioting when he attempted to hold an organizational meeting in the courthouse, told reporters here that this was the second time in the past week that he had been chased from a town. He was "invited" to leave Bruce, Miss., earlier in the week, he said.

SEP 13 1941

Many persons were injured in the race riot in the heart of the town. Some 300 or more men fought fiercely for hours. Two men, one white and the other colored, are in a serious condition from injuries received in the fighting.

Barrett was bent on unionizing the D. L. Fair Lumber Co. He had held one meeting before the riot developed. Colored citizens were chased from the city streets by the armed white mob.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COCA COLA COMPANY AGREES TO INCREASE WORKERS' PAY

OCT 1 1 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La., Oct. 9—Negotiations of the local Press Club with the Coca Cola Bottling company for an increase in wages paid Negro truck drivers and helpers, came to a successful conclusion last Sunday when Coca Cola officials agreed to a five-cent-per-hour increase for the first forty hours of labor and a boost in overtime rates to forty-five cents per hour. Negotiations were started by the Press Club after it had received several complaints from employees that they were being paid 25 cents per hour for the first 40 hours of work. Many worked 56 hours per week, with no rate increase for overtime.

Alonzo B. Willis, president of the Press Club, with several race leaders, the New Orleans Negro Board of Trade, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance had planned joint action against the company. They charged the offending concern with hiring Negroes in large numbers merely because they could be paid starvation wages.

The new wage scale of the Cola company will mean a boast of approximately $200 per week in the salaries paid Negro workers.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Court Dismisses "Election" Injunction Case Against Appointed Officers Of '1419'

Civil District Court Judge Throws Bombshell Into Past Manipulations of Inner Union Cliques By Action.

JAN 4 - 1941

By LEON LEWIS

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2—Dismissing an injunction to restrain "appointed" officers of local I.L.A. Union No. 1419 from holding an election, Judge Nat W. Bond of the Civil District court threw a bombshell into past manipulations of inner union cliques to save and control the remnants of the local Colored Longshoremen's Union which figured in the recent $200,000 deduct shortage in connection with Paul Hortman and Edward Johnson are under charges of embezzlement.

Rev. Willie Iler, Webb Miles, William Woods, Rev. Frank Johnson and Eddie Duval filed the injunction against H. E. Augustine, Dallas Sparkman, George Jones and Lawrence Blackwell to refrain them from ordering or holding an election of officers for the "1419" local on the grounds that they being "appointed" officers could not hold or direct a fair election in accordance with the constitution of the local. The clique had planned an election for December 34, 1940.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY ANSWERS

The Augustine faction's attorney, Sam Lang, former attorney for the National Labor Relations Board and close affiliate of Charles H. Logan, local NLRB chief, attempts to show in his answer that Augustine and his followers were duly within their jurisdiction in calling an election, because they were appointed by the international officers to direct the affairs of the union following the resignation of Paul Hortman and part of his cabinet.

He further maintained for reason of denying the injunction that the plaintiffs were all members of a supporting faction of Harvey Netter, who was the Independent candidate for the presidency of the Local.

In giving his reasons for dismissal, Judge Bond stated that an official election could only be held according to the constitution of the Local and in effect, that until the constitution had been violated the court had no jurisdiction.

CONSTITUTION SAYS

The constitution of the Local, according to members, sets Dec. 31, as annual election date. The duties of Augustine (president of Freight Handlers) upon his appointment by the international as manager-supervisor of "1419" is to direct the alleged discrepancies of the union following the reported deduct shortage of some $200,000. His appointive authorization can last only 90 days, which times expires January 10, 1941.

SAY "1419" IN RECEIVERSHIP

The Augustine faction holds that "1419" is in "receivership" by reason of insolvency and fully under the jurisdiction of the international, giving the international full authority to order an election when it sees fit. They state that an election will be called immediately.

According to impartial legal interpretations of the court proceedings, the Augustine faction will lay themselves liable to contempt of court, if an election is called and motivated in violation of the Local's constitution.

OTHER INVOLVEMENTS

Bob Willis, vice-president of '1419' under the Hortman regime and Clarence Collins, chairman of finance, refused to resign along with other cabinet members upon pressure from international officers and are seeking recognized reinstatement through court action. The decision in the election case points to their reinstatement, according to legal interpretations after January 10, which will automatically make Willis, president, succeeding Hortman's resignation. Rev. Willie Iler will also hold his chaplain post. After this date, b special election, called by the d elected officers of the Local, e ing vacancies may be fille

---

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NEW ORLEANS PROGRESSIVES SWEEP TICKET

MAY 10 1941

Group Wins Presidency And 5 Lesser Offices By Big Plurality

35c

BULLETIN

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Robert Jones, defeated presidential candidate for the ILA local 1419, filed suit to nullify the victory of Harvey Netters this week. The suit was filed in the civil district court here and charged that many illegal votes were cast in the election last Monday and that the Smith Stevedoring company had urged longshoremen to cast their votes for the Netters faction. This was the sixth time that the affairs of the union have been taken into court.

MAY 10 1941

NEW ORLEANS.—J. Harvey Netters was elected president of the I.L.A. Local 1419 in the first "democratic" election in the organization's history. Netters heading the progressive ticket swamped the runner-up candidate, Robert Jones, and his constituents to clock a decided victory for the Progressives.

Netters received 656 of the 1197 votes cast for presidency, and a supporting ticket composed of John Mackie for vice president; Albert Bently, recording secretary; John Perkins, financial secretary; Jesse Brown, treasurer; Alvin Bocage, Ernest Rhone, and A. R Turner, finance committee topped their respective opponents.

The Progressives ran on a revised program for the local, promising a new deal in the ranks of the longshore workers They were supported by the rank and file of the waterfront workers, and were accorded the well wishes of a majority of the interested public.

Netters has been in the labor field for a number of years, having formerly been an organizer for the C.I.O. during its incipiency in New Orleans. Before coming to New Orleans about 12 years ago, he was connected with an insurance and burial association business in Mississippi. He has been an ardent sympathizer for the underprivileged in labor circles and has been a staunch advocate of the application of Democratic initiative to labor organizations and maneuvers.

He promises a complete revision of the alleged accusations that almost disrupted the 1419 local last year, and to direct the activities of the organization strictly along the line of Democratic principles.

MAY 10 1941

J. HARVEY NETTERS

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LA. WORKERS JOIN WHITES IN STRIKE

BATON ROUGE, La., July 17—Pledging their mutual aid to remedy grievances against the Gulf State Utilities Company here, last week colored and white workers presented a solid front and struck against the company thus tying up the power supply of the City of Baton Rouge and many important defense manufacturing plants.

The first strike was called by the white electrical workers and then members of the General Drivers Union, composed mostly of Negroes, voted to join the strike and present their demands on the company also.

JUL 19 1941

35c

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

UNION LEADERS AT NEW ORLEANS CONVICTED OF VIOLENCE IN NEGRO INSURANCE STRIKE; GET 60-90 DAYS

JUN 7 - 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(Special)—Jail sentences meted out to five Negro organizers of the CIO here last Wednesday is expected to have salutary effect on future organizational efforts of the CIO unions.

Ernest Wright, Taylor Ramsey, Ernest Worthy, Frank Hoskins and Chris Williams were found guilty in Criminal Court and sentenced by Judge J. A. Charbonnet. The first two received 60 days and the latter three received 90 days in jail.

Found guilty of beating John Blanchard, manager of the Louisiana Insurance Company, one of the leading agencies in the state, testimony introduced at the trial showed that the beating administered Blanchard was the result of a heated argument over the organizing attempt.

For some days and weeks, staid old New Orleans was considerable stirred over th strike which arose when the agents demanded more money and less working time. The strike spread to other companies. Leading citizens, aroused over the beating of them and angered caused an investigation what has been called the first attempt to organize a group of colored insurance workers.

JUN 7 - 1941

Although nothing definite has come out of the organizing attempt of the CIO, the arrest and sentencing of the organizers is expected to deal a fatal blow to all attempts of the union to win support of New Orleans' citizens.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Race Workers In Louisiana Strike

BY RICHARD H. THOMAS

JUL 12 1941

BATON ROUGE, La.—(SNS)—An employes' strick on the Gulf States Utilities Company, which threatens to stop electric power for the city of Baton Rouge, the Standard Oil Company, the Du-Point Plant and other industries augmented Friday by a strike of important to national defense, was the gas section which includes a majority of Negroes.

The strike went into its fourth day and not a single Negro has passed through the lines. In a meeting Friday, the gas section asked for higher wages, overtime pay, strict seniority rights, pay vacations and overtime pay. Three Negroes charge that they have the wrong classification because of color and the conditions of prejudice compel them to do skilled and semi-skilled work although they are not paid and classified as such. Company officials have threatened their jobs to no avail.

JUL 12 1941

Number 3 General Drivers' Union, as the strikers gas section is known, appointed five Negroes to represent it. The representatives are Thomas Johnson, Alton Taylor, Charlie Jackson, Albert Anderson and Jeff Anderson.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Southern Negro Longshoremen Win 'Sit Down'

Militant Action Forces Police to Release Docker, Jailed for Talking Back to Boss

JUN 23 1941

New Orleans, La.

Workers Correspondence Department:

A job action was recently taken by the Negro longshoremen at the Southern Pacific docks in Algiers, La., a small town lying directly across the Mississippi River from New Orleans.

This is what happened. The white foreman began to curse one of the workers, as he is in the habit of doing, calling him a black so-and-so. The worker would not take that kind of abuse and answered the foreman right back. For this he was fired and ordered off the dock. Because the worker didn't move off fast enough, four of the foreman's stooges, company guards, came after him, one holding a crowbar. The worker picked up a cotton-hook and held the four men off until the other longshoremen rescued him.

When the worker finally left the dock and got on the ferry returning to New Orleans, the foreman pointed him out to the City Police who took him to the jail in New Orleans and booked him with causing a disturbance.

JUN 23 1941

When the longshoremen saw their buddy pulled in they took action and sat down, refusing to work until their friend was released and brought back. They knew the record of the New Orleans police in beating up and even killing Negro prisoners. That same week a 15-year old Negro boy running down the street had died from six slugs poured into him by a state trooper. A short time before the Negro community had been aroused by the brutal murder of a Negro prisoner by the New Orleans Chief of Detectives. So the workers had good reason to fear for their buddy.

The forman ordered them back to work, but the men would not budge. He threatened the men, then he made them all kinds of promises. Finally the newly-elected president of this ILA local was called. He said he would get the man released from jail if the men would go back to work.

The men still refused. Until they saw their friend back on the dock they would not move. Then the boss stevedore was called, the man who controls the hiring of all longshoremen on the docks. He sized up the situation, saw the determination of the men, and did the only thing he could do to save his face. He had the arrested worker brought back to the dock, with all charges against him dropped, put him back on the job, and warned the foreman to behave or the foreman himself would be fired.

JUN 23 1941

Only then would the men go back to work.

This is the first time in 15 years that the Longshoremen have taken a job action in this port. This was due largely to the fact that the longshoremen succeeded in the recent election in Local 1419 of the ILA. They defeated the candidate of Joe Ryan and elected to office a candidate who campaigned on a progressive four-point program. This included reducing the load limits, improving working conditions, rank-and-file control of the organization, and making Local 1419 a democratic set-up.

"MEMBER LOCAL 1419."

35i-1941 MARYLAND

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Crew at Sea Spur Negro Fight for Jobs

MAY 8 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BALTIMORE, Md., May 7.—Above the drone of ships' engines miles out at sea, the united voices of organized seamen on eight vessels, pledged full support to the National Negro Congress' drive to win 7,000 jobs for Negroes at the Glenn Martin Aircraft plant, in telegrams sent to the Maryland-D. C. jobs conference held here Sunday, April 27.

Members of the powerful National Maritime Union, the seamen sent telegrams from the following ships: The Gatum, Chatham, Pan Georgia, Fairfax, Charles S. Cramp, Moormacyork, Koperston, and also the Lamont duPont, a ship which bears the name of the munitions family.

MAY 8 1941

The message from the SS Gatum said: "Ship committee pledge support of crew and National Maritime Union to aim of job conference to secure 7,000 jobs for Negroes in Glenn L. Martin plant as the first step to secure jobs for Negroes in all defense industries."

35 i

ml

351-1941 MASSACHUSETTS

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Open Talks in Negro Furniture Walkout

AUG 28 1941

Four-Week CIO Strike at Spring Products Co. Enters Negotiations After Mass Picketing; More Demonstrations Planned

Negotiations were started here yesterday to settle the four-weeks-old strike at the Spring Products Corp.'s plants in Long Island City, Everett, Mass., and Baltimore, following a picket-line demonstration Monday morning of 1,000 Negro and white furniture workers at the Long Island City factory.

Dominick Tripode, business agent of Local 91, United Furniture Workers of America, CIO, is representing the strikers of the New York plant in the negotiations. Mike Tyson, Local 136-B, and Louis Gilbert, Local 75, represent respectively the striking workers of the Massachusetts and the Maryland branches of the Spring Products Corp. Morris Muster, international president, Max Perlow, international vice-president, and Ernest Marsh, international secretary-treasurer of the United Furniture Workers of America, are also among the negotiators. The company is represented by Samuel Marcus, president.

Monday's picket line of 1,000 strikers and supporters only "hinted at" the solidarity of the city's furniture workers with the Negro strikers at the Long Island City plant, a spokesman for the strikers said yesterday. He said that plans for the next weekly mass picket demonstration call for [illegible] persons in line.

AUG 28 1941

STRIKER ARRESTED

Chauncey Sample, a striker, was arrested on Monday's picket line charged with "assault" on a scab. He was arraigned in General Sessions yesterday.

Horace Small, a leader of the 400 Negro strikers at Long Island City, reviewing reasons for the walkout, said scores of men in the shop made $12 a week, although the minimum weekly wage for the furniture industry is $16. He declared that all the 400 strikers are "standing firm, shoulder to shoulder."

"A few days ago Mr. Marcus, the chief owner of Spring Products Corp., said bluntly that he couldn't afford to meet our demand for $16 a week minimum," Small said, "because Negroes, being 'shiftless, incompetent and drunkards,' don't deserve so much money. Yet the fact remains that in the past 20 years Marcus has made a fortune from the sweat and toil of his Negro workers. From a basement shop of five workers, he today owns three factories."

Small said that Marcus has often declared to the shop committee that Negroes are employed in his plants "for no altruistic reason" but only because he could get more work from them at less pay.

"Five years ago, before we had a union in the shop, the majority of the workers earned from $8 to $10 for a 52½-hour week," Small said, adding that, "as far as our boys are concerned," those days are "gone forever." The Negro workers, he declared, demand "equal pay for equal work with the thousands of our brother unionists in the furniture industry."

The strikers, Small said, asked the full support of the labor movement and "continued support of all progressive people and organizations." Pointing out that "this struggle for a better life" is the struggle also of all other Negro people, Small appealed for cooperation on the picket line and on the newly formed citizens' committee to aid the Spring Products Corp. strikers.

AUG 28 1941

Strike headquarters are at 4 Court Square, Long Island City.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

500 Negro Strikers Win Pay Increase

AUG 29 1941

Spring Products Workers Victorious in 3-City Walkout

Five hundred Negro strikers in three plants of the Spring Products Corp., at Long Island City, Everett, Mass., and Baltimore won a victory yesterday with the signing of a contract providing for a 10 per cent wage increase, boosting of the minimum starting rates, a closed shop, paid vacations, grievance machinery and arbitration, and other improvements in wages and working conditions.

Conferences between the shop committees of the three branches of the company and the management began here several days ago. Morris Muster, international president, and Ernst Marsh, international secretary-treasurer of the United Furniture Workers of America, CIO, and Dominic Tripode, business manager of Local 91, represented the workers in the negotiations.

As soon as agreement had been reached in the conferences, a meeting was called in each plant, unanimous ratification was voted and the contract signed.

AUG 29 1941

The Negro st[illegible] won the moral and material support of other locals of the Furniture Workers' Union, who praised the workers of the Spring Products Corp. for "the loyalty to their common cause, their solidarity and their enthusiasm."

Negro organization, in addition to forming a citizens' committee, informed the people of the various communities of the issues involved in the strike and thus helped, it is said, to prevent strikebreaking.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Boston Negro Papers Laud Job Campaign

Negro Congress Affiliate Pickets Chain Store In Militant Drive

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BOSTON, June 16.—Both Negro newspapers of Boston, the Chronicle and the Guardian today lauded the jobs campaign of the New England Congress for Equal opportunities, local affiliate of the National Negro Congress.

JUN 17 1941

The local Congress, which has obtained more than score of jobs for colored citizens here through their militant jobs campaign is currently concentrating on the McLellan's Chain Store, situated in the heart of the Negro community. Last Saturday a mass picketline of Negro and white citizens began at 4 p. m. and last until closing time. This was again repeated today. The Congress is supported in its action by the local trade union movement which is helping in the picketing.

The store managment had been visited earlier in the week by the Jobs Committee of the New England Congress and had been told that Negro girl clerks were not hired by the store because "they weren't smart enough to hold jobs." When pressed further the manager stated that he could not hire any girls without consent of the New York office. The Congress declared that they will continue their fight to compel this as well as other establishments to practise no discrimination in hiring of employes.

JUN 17 1941

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Seek To Avoid Racial Clash In Ford Strike

351 Michigan

NEW YORK.—Acting on reports from Detroit that interracial clash might break there after the city election Monday, April 7, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on April 4, requested immediate certification of the Ford strike by Secretary of Labor Perkins to the national mediation board.

APR 1 1 1941

Walter White, NAACP secretary, wired both Miss Perkins and President Roosevelt urging this step. Fears in Detroit were aroused by the resentment of the striking union against Negro workers who have not joined the walk-out.

APR 1 1 1941

Text of the NAACP telegram to President Roosevelt:

"Reports from Detroit state that after city election on Monday, Governor Van Wagoner and others will attempt backto work movement in Ford strike. We are informed by reliable newspaper men and other competent observers that disastrous race riot may take place. Apparently all efforts mediation locally have failed. To avert disastrous riot we are urging Secretary of Labor Perkins to certify immediately to National Mediation Board Ford strike. May we urge you to request such certification by Miss Perkins."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FUTURE OF NEGRO HANGS IN BALANCE

APR 1 2 1941

200 Injured During Big River Rouge Strike—Both Sides Make Overtures to Colored Workers—Opinion Divided.

DETROIT, April 10.—The great Ford Motor company, America's largest and wealthiest industrial empire, remains closed today, and a nemesis seems crouched upon the shoulders of Henry Ford, the automobile wizard whom Wall Street once called the "lone wolf" in America's gigantic industrial mart. Some declare that it has required a conspiracy of labor, Wall Street, and Hitler to close, for the first time in its history, the colossal River Rouge factory.

FORD AND ORGANIZED LABOR IN FINISH FIGHT

Throughout recent years, organized labor—the CIO and the A. F. of L.—has sought unceasingly to find the Ford Motor Company's vulnerable spot. With equal determination Henry Ford has continued to build his empire so that an enemy attack might find it impregnable.

Unlike competitive automobile plants, the Ford Motor Company has always given Negro labor a free hand. Here the Negro worker has been able to advance beyond the sphere of unskilled circles.

APR 1 2 1941

Ford has felt that his Negro employees are not only cognizant of that fact but that they are so appreciative they can be depended upon to stand in the front line trenches, as it were, and battle for Ford against organized labor.

Time marches on, and in its strides, conditions change. Only recently the Ford Motor Company seemed to recognize the progress that organized labor has made. Then the CIO was definitely and deeply entrenched beyond the Ford threshold. A short while back Ford seemed to realize that he must eventually recognize organized labor. He detested the CIO, and he had no love for the A. F. of L., but of the two evils he seemed to prefer the A. F. of L. Consequently a belated effort was made to build up the A. F. of L. so that when an inevitable ballot would be cast, the CIO would be outnumbered ~~and~~ out-voted.

APR 1 2 1941

200 NEGRO WORKERS INJURED DURING STRIKE

The CIO anticipated the Ford technique and beat Ford to "the draw." It called the strike that has closed the doors of the Ford Motor Company for the first time in its 38 year history.

When the strike was called at midnight on Tuesday several thousand Negro employes remained at the plant and endeavored to fight off the picketers. Out-numbered, they proved no match for the 10,000 CIO picketers.

It is rumored that more than 200 Negro Ford employes have been injured since the strike began. Most of the fighting was done Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Despite the fact that the CIO boasts of having a large number of Negro members, there are only a handful of Negro picketers among the thousands doing duty at the Ford plant; consequently during the first day or two the strike assumed an aspect of a racial clash. Some declare that the CIO did not assign Negro members to picket duty; others voiced the opinion that, despite CIO membership, Negroes were reluctant to join the ranks of those that had set out to wreck the Ford empire.

I. A. Capizzi, attorney for the Ford interests, has succeeded in getting a Federal Court injunction that declares that Ford employes may return to work without being molested. Such an injunction has proven empty inasmuch as the plant remains closed, and picket lines are still around the plant. On Saturday about 800 of the 3,000 Negro workers who had been kept in the plant were released and allowed to pass through the picket lines unmolested. Both the CIO and the A. F. of L. are still diligently signing Ford workers. It is impossible to tell which organization has the more Negro members.

CIO WANTS SIX POINTS ACCEPTED

Labor Conciliator James F. Dewey, and Governor Van Wagoner have done everything they could to negotiate peace, but the CIO and the Ford Motor Company are as far apart as they were when the strike first opened. The union is insisting that the company recognize the CIO ~~as is~~ the case in other local automobile manufacturing plants, and that the following six points be accepted before the strike is called off.

First, seniority rights.

Second, a ten cent per hour increase in wages.

Third, two weeks vacation with pay.

APR 1 2 1941

Fourth, abandonment of the "spy" system (the CIO declares that Ford's non-uniformed police officers under personnel director Harry Bennett, constitute a spy system).

Fifth, time and one-half for Saturday work.

Sixth, double time for Sunday.

In addition to the above six points, the union declares that all Ford CIO employes who were discharged for union activities be reinstated. Harry Bennett, personnel director, declares that the Ford Motor Company will never rehire eight former employes whom he insists were responsible for the present strike.

LINES OF CLEAVAGE AMONG NEGRO LEADERS

As might be expected, there are sharp lines of cleavage among Negro leaders as to whether the Ford Motor Company or the CIO should win the strike. Some are prone to be sympathetic with Ford, because the Ford Motor Company has always hired the largest number of Negroes employed by any manufacturer here or anywhere else in the world, and that Negroes working at Fords are permitted to work in any department for which they are fitted by merit, whereas in other plants, except in a very few isolated cases, Negroes are employed only as unskilled laborers.

Negro leaders who lean towards the CIO point out that the day of open shops has passed and that the Negro must line up with organized labor if he expects to enjoy labor reforms which are made possible by organized labor efforts.

There seems to be a very definite preference to CIO affiliation as against the A. F. of L., because it is declared that of the two unions the CIO has been decidedly more kindly disposed towards Negro interests and causes than the A. F. of L. Negro leaders consider that it is unfortunate that Ford found it necessary to make it appear that Negroes were fighting CIO picketers. In their opinion this is a strike between the Ford Motor Company and the CIO and that Negroes should not be used as spearheads by either side.

N. A. A. C. P. SOUND TRUCK URGES END TO FIGHTING

The N. A. A. C. P. has urged Negroes and white workers alike to lay down their arms and stop fighting. It declares that the motive of the N. A. A. C. P. in going out to the Ford Rouge plant in a sound truck was to prevent the possible injection of a racial issue into the strike and to prevent as far as possible race clashes.

R. J. Thomas, president, and Michael F. Widman, Jr., director of the Ford Organizing Committee, UAW-CIO, charged that the Ford Motor Company is deliberately "exciting racial hatreds in an effort to break the ranks of its striking employes."

They charged also that the company has violated its understanding with Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner, to keep the plant closed during a period of negotiations, by attempting to mobolize Negro workers for a forced march into the Rouge plant.

The union leaders' statement follows:

APR 1 2 1941

"Among the many disreputable tactics used by the Ford Motor Company in an effort to provoke violence in the present strike and to break the ranks of the strikers is the vicious practice of sowing hatred and discord between Negro and white workers.

"Testimony of eye-witnesses, supported by published photographs in the daily press, reveal the fact that a crowd of several hundred Negro workers emerged from the Rouge plant, at gate four, Miller Road, yesterday and attacked a much smaller group of peaceful pickets, many of whom were painfully and some seriously injured.

"The men who came from the plant were armed with iron bars and other weapons, consisting of steel and iron automobile parts which are the property of the Ford Motor Company. The mob could not have taken these weapons without the permission of members of the Ford service department then inside the plant. Several of these weapons were hurled at the pickets and specimens were shown to Governor Van Wagoner yesterday.

"The UAW-CIO by constitution and practice does not tolerate racial discrimination. There are thousands of loyal Negro union members among the Ford workers as well as in other local unions. We urge all Negro Ford workers and all members of the Negro community not to permit members of their race to be made catspaw of a conscienceless company which does not hesitate to stoop to the most un-American practices.

"We ask all Negro workers to stand shoulder to shoulder with all other workers so that this strike may be carried through peacefully and effectively for the benefit of all the workers in the plant."

Members of the Detroit Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People circled the Rouge gates for hours in a sound truck, which broadcast appeals to Negro Ford workers not to act as strike-breakers, the union is informed.

The Ford Motor Company has $155,000,000 worth of National Defense contracts. It is estimated that the loss in wages to the 85,000 employes during the strike is approximately $640,000 per day. Already business is feeling the sudden loss in purchasing power. This is particularly true of Negro business because there are more than 11.000 Negroes on the Ford rolls.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Eye Negro's Vote In Ford Election

MAY 24 1941

(35a) Mich

DETROIT—While union and non-union workers were active in the Ford River Rouge Plant, Monday and Tuesday, spreading their propaganda among the employees prior to casting their vote, Wednesday to determine whether they would be governed by the A.F. of L., UWA-CIO or remain under Ford rule, a group of Negro workers indicated their support to the unions for at least five reasons.

They objected to the speed-up which they claim is Ford's way of decreasing his pay rolls and eliminating any necessary pay increase; inadequate relief men; the spy system; seniority rights being denied workers after they have reached a certain age and stage of service and denial of workers to express their side of story in dismissal procedures.

Donald J. Marshall, head of the Negro division of the personnel office, declined to make any comment relative to what would be the workers' choice, but indicated that the company was ready for any emergency.

Ford officials claim they have given raises during 1941 equal and above what the unions are demanding, to all of their employes. They claim to have installed an average raise of 15 cents per hour over a blanket coverage of their employee.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Negroes in the Ford Strike

MAY 12 1941

To those who have been puzzled by the race issue in the Ford strike, the May number of the The Crisis will be illuminating. In an article on "Stooges for Ford," this official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People explains that the flivver king hires between 10,000 and 14,000 Negroes out of a total of 85,000 men at River Rouge, making him easily the largest employer of Negro labor in Detroit. In contrast with General Motors and others, he also gives them opportunity to rise above menial rank. This, together with propaganda among Detroit Negro leaders, has set Ford up as a kind of hero among Negroes in many places. At the time of the strike the UAW-CIO was reported to have enrolled some 3,000 Negroes. When the strike was called, 1,500 Negroes, together with some maintenance workers, remained in the plant. After one bloody clash with pickets, they stayed there, fed by the company and reportedly paid a dollar an hour on a twenty-four-hour basis. The union charged that many of these men had been especially imported in anticipation of the strike. In any event, they refused to come out either at the behest of Federal Conciliator Dewey or of various Negro organizations, and the end of the strike found them still holding the fort for Ford.

MAY 12 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

NEGROES SEEK FORD HARMONY

Workers Plan to Become Good CIO Members; Mad With No One

DETROIT—Despite the results of the elections, last Wednesday, at the Ford River Rouge Plant, arguments are still [illegible] relative to whether Negro workers will be advanced or retarded by the outcome.

MAY 31 1941

Theodore (Tex) Larkins who bossed the "Goon Gang" which stayed in the Ford plant during the strike and who later led his men into the ranks of the A. F. of L. said, "We have lost, and according to the election results, the best men have won.

MAY 31 1941

"We are not angry with anyone We fought for what we thought was best for us, but now we will try and make good CIO members."

Other A. F. of L. boosters were not so liberal in their remarks. Many let it be known that they were dissatisfied and some even intimated that things were not settled although the elections claimed the CIO was now in power.

While the status of A. F. of L. members were not determined up to late last week, John Conyers, international organizer for the CIO said that they would not be dismissed from their jobs and voiced his wish that they be able CIO members.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

King Henry Signs On The Line

JUN 26 1941

"King Henry Ford is signed up"—that was the answer 120,000 American workers for Ford Motor Company thundered back at the week which Labor's Non-Partisan League called blackest in American labor history.

Ford had played a wily game for years and years. He was one of the Big Mules who gave most to help Hitler onto his seat of power, for which he now wears a proud Nazi medal. Alongside his sympathy with foreign Fascism, he had all the angles of Fascism at home worked out too. For example, when he hired men he'd send down into the Deep South for them, into the bottom lands where Jim Crow kept the people divided and poor. He hired them white and colored. He figured that Southern workers could be happy on sow-belly and peas, and would face slow starvation rather than organize together with their black fellow-workers against the common enemy—Ford.

(3 5a) Mich

But King Henry figured without one thing — we Southerners do learn who it is that's keeping us down, and when we learn, we learn fast! Last fall the C.I.O. moved in on King Henry's Kingdom. They rolled out a whirlwind organizing campaign, in which Ford, Chief stooge Harry Bennett and Stooge No. 2 William Green stood by wailing helplessly as the rank-and-file caught the union spirit and made it their drive. Last week Ford signed up—one of the industry's best union contracts.

Now there is democracy in Ford plants. Now the workers who make the cars vote on their conditions of work, have a voice powerful enough to raise grievances, and have a chance to spend some of the fruits of their labor for democracy, rather than letting it all go to Big Mules Ford and Hitler.

The latest talk going around (straight out of Wall Street) is that Henry Ford finally "saw the light," that this great Jew-baiter and Negro-baiter had become convinced that his labor policy was behind the times. But to imply that Ford convinced himself out of the goodness of his heart is to soil the memory of hundreds of Ford workers who were brutally beaten or murdered during years of attempted organization at Ford's, and to overlook the good American education that the C.I.O. brought the Ford workers to help overcome Ford's mixture of honeyed words and heavy clubs.

Yes, Ford's policy was behind the times. More immediately important, though, it was behind the eight ball. The people won a victory over a pro-Fascist industrialist. They convinced Ford that he was up against something stronger than his hoarded gold, and convinced the whole nation that it is labor, first and last, which fights Fascism and brings true democracy.

JUN 26 1941

35i-1941 MICHIGAN

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

APR 7 - 1941

35i
Mich
APR 7 - 1941

WORKER PLEADS FOR PICKETS MERCY—A battered and bloody negro worker in the Ford Motor Company plant at Detroit pleads with club-swinging pickets who beat him when he attempted to enter the plant which has been closed by a C. I. O.-U. A. W. strike since April 3. He was a victim of scattered clashes that took place between pickets and workers after the plant closed.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

STRIKEBREAKERS BEAT RETURNING FORD WORKERS

APR 26 1941

Company Service Men Charged with Play Upon Race Friction

DETROIT—Several Negro and white members of the United Auto Workers Union (CIO) were injured by a small group of Negro strikebreakers, when the former sought to enter the foundry of the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant here Friday, following settlement of a nine-day strike.

Mich

Citizens charged that the attacks against the union men were inspired by Ford service men working in conjunction with a Negro personnel official and a former president of the UAW, now an agent of the Ford Company, in order to postpone a forthcoming Labor Board election at the plant.

The union men, part of the 85.-000 workers involved in the strike, who have been returned to work in shifts, had just passed through gate four, scene of a recent bloody riot between Negro scabs and union members, when they were attacked by the strikebreakers. The Goons are said to have been stationed in the fountry, under instruction to pick fights with the returning workers by tearing off their union buttons.

APR 26 1941

Start Whispering Campaign

Citizens charged that Ford Service Men started a whispering campaign among the workers saying that the union was about to call another strike.

Describing the situation as a dastardly attempt to split Negro and white workers, John P. Davis, national secretary of the National Negro Congress, condemned the Ford Motor Company for continuing its subversive attempts to split organized lagor through appeals to race prejudice.

"Every type of vicious propaganda has been used by the Ford Motor Company," Davis said, "to divide the Negro and white workers and they have failed. This latest attempt will meet with failure too, because the Negro workers are coming to understand that the union is their only sure guarantee for security in their jobs."

Davis recently returned from a three-day stay in Detroit, where he conferred with George Addes, secretary-treasurer of the UAW; and Michael F. Widman, Jr., director of the Ford Organizing Drive, in connection with the Congress Drive to rally Negro workers to support the Labor Board Election Drive.

APR 26 1941

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

NAACP Scores Ford For Using Negro Workers To Break Rouge Strike

APR 18 1941

35i
Mich

Detroit, Mich.—Declaring that the use of Negro workers in a hired "goon squad" to break the strike called April 2 at the huge River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company was "dangerous," Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, issued a statement April 9 deploring the action and calling upon the Negroes in the plant to leave.

The NAACP secretary flew here April 7 when long distance telephone reports to New York seemed to indicate that racial tension had been injected so strongly into the struggle between Ford and the strikers that a riot might be staged.

APR 18 1941

"The Ford Stake," said Mr. White's statement, "faces the Negro with the toughest decision he has ever had to make in the matter of jobs and his relations with his fellow workers and employers. Widespread discrimination by some employers, even in national defense industries financed by taxation of Negroes as well as whites, has driven the majority of Negro workers to the ragged edge of existence. Henry Ford has not only hired more Negroes than any other Detroit employer but has given some of them the chance to rise above the menial ranks which contrasts sharply with Knudsen's General Motors.

APR 18 1941

"The attempt to use Negroes as a club over the heads of those who wish to organize themselves in unions in the Ford plants, however, is a dangerous move in times like these. It may make for increased racial tensions which would hurt the defense program. I regret that a few colored workers, in their desperation for jobs have lent themselves to staying in the River Rouge plant. They are not helping themselves, the cause of the Negro, nor labor relations generally. Especially when everyone knows that the Ford company could evacuate the plant in fifteen minutes if it really wanted the thousand or so white and Negro workers out of there. I again plead with the men in the plant to leave, to remove this source of friction, and to let the issue be peacably settled by the vote which has been ordered by the NLRB.

APR 18 1941

"Gratitude of Negro workers to Henry Ford for jobs which other plants have denied them is understandable. But I want to remind Negro Ford workers that they cannot afford to rely on the personal kindness of any individual when what the worker wants is 'justice.' Death comes eventually to everyone of us. It will some day come to the present heads of the Ford industrial empire. No Ford employee, colored or white, knows what the future heads of Ford may do. Honest industrial democracy in the Ford and other industries of our country, offer the only real guarantee of present and future security for workers."

APR 18 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FORD STRIKE JEOPARDIZES NEGRO-UNION RELATIONSHIP

Cayton Pictures the Issues Involved in the Detroit Labor Riots—Ford Has Been Godfather to Race in Automobile Industry.

APR 12 1941

By HORACE R. CAYTON
Courier Labor Expert

DETROIT, Mich., April 10.—The tragedy of race relations in the industrial field has never been more clearly shown than during the present Ford strike. Pictures of the brutal beatings which white pickets have administered to Negro scabs, have revolted the senses of many Negroes throughout the country and again reinforced their hatred and fear of white workers and union organizations and their belief in the goodness of benevolent employers.

On the other hand, many white workers are reconvinced that Negroes are, as ever, strike breakers, never to be trusted or depended upon. Both the Negro and the white workers believe that they are fighting for their rights as American citizens—the tragedy is that this racial difference is endangering the union organization on one hand, and building up further barriers against Negro-white cooperation on the other.

Mr. Cayton

APR 12 1941

First it should be realized that this is no ordinary strike. As stated by me some months ago the campaign to gain recognition of the automobile union is not an organizing campaign of the common garden variety, but is one which holds great possibilities and dangers for all of organized labor.

As a matter of fact, labor's unstinted cooperation (at least that of the C. I. O.) in the defense program may well depend upon the outcome of what appears to be labor's present cause celebre. If labor is defeated in this struggle it will presage a more general attack upon all unions by those who will use the defense program as an excuse to wipe out all the social gains of the past two administrations.

FORD IS ANTI-UNION

There is no doubt that Henry Ford is, viciously and criminally, anti-union. There have been seven National Labor Relations Board decisions against him and the United States Circuit Court has upheld two of the major decisions. All workers in the Ford plant, including Negroes, suffer from the speed-up, the possibility of brutal treatment from Ford's "service men" (private police force) and enjoy a wage which is about ten cents an hour below that of workers in other automobile plants. Working conditions for both Negroes and whites are poor as judged by the rest of the industry. Why then, have Negroes, for the most part, refused to join with their fellow white workers?

HALF WORKERS IN FORD PLANTS

APR 12 1941

Let us examine first the company's attitude toward black workers. Ford was farsighted in hiring Negroes when many other automobile manufacturers would not hire them at all, or employed them in very limited numbers. The large increase of Negroes in the automobile industry came between 1910 and 1930. Using 1900 as a base of 100 by 1930 there were, for that original 100, 4,551 Negro workers in the industry. During that twenty-year span Negroes increased in absolute numbers from 569 to 25,895.

APR 12 1941

Of that number we find, however, that the eleven or twelve thousand employed by the Ford Rouge Plant alone constitutes between 45 and 50 per cent of that total number of Negroes in the automobile industry. There can be no doubt that Ford has provided jobs for plenty of Negroes and the Negro is (and understandably so) thankful for employment.

Throughout the industry the vast majority of Negro automobile workers are employed in the foundry, paint, and maintenance departments (chiefly as janitors) or as general unskilled labor. In these occupations the accident rate is higher and the work the most undesirable in the industry. This situation, which characterizes the entire industry, is true of the Ford Rouge plant in degree, but the difference is important.

FORD HAS MANY SKILLED WORKERS

Although Ford concentrates Negroes in the unskilled and unpleasant positions, it is also true that only in the Rouge plant are Negroes permitted to work on every type of operation connected with automobile manufacturing. The Rouge final assembly is the only final assembly line in the United States employing Negroes. Negroes are also employed on all of the various types of machine and press operations in the Motor, "B," spring and Upset and Pressed Steel buildings.

Workers in these departments are entirely white in every other automobile factory in the country. Again, the Rouge is the only automobile plant in which Negro tool and die makers are employed. Though disproportionate for their numbers in the plant the Rouge has a number of Negro foremen and possibly more than in all of the rest of the industry combined.

"BLOOD BATHS" ARE EVIDENCE OF LOYALTY

APR 12 1941

Thus it can been seen that Ford has hired Negroes, given them representation throughout the plant (though not proportionate to their numbers) and as far as race relations are concerned has set a model for the entire industry. Nor has he neglected to work on the Negro community. Through gifts, subsidies and "educational" lectures, by his Negro personnel men he has convinced them of what they already knew; that he was feeding them and expected them to be loyal. That Negroes were loyal was given cruel evidence in the blood bath pictures splashed throughout the nation's press.

On the other hand the C. I. O. has made a desperate effort to break down color barriers and it presents the greatest hope for Negro laborers since the Knights of Labor. To spurn this advance on the part of organized labor would set a dangerous precedent and would give confirmation to the beliefs of many union members and officials that Negroes are unorganizable. It will be a bitter blow to those who look to the future of the Negro in trade union organizations if this most crucial strike is lost by the use of Negro scabs.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NLRB TO CONDUCT VOTING WEDNESDAY; CIO, AFL CONFIDENT

McL

385

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS
Staff Corresondent

DETROIT, May 15.—The National Labor Relations board has just announced that May 21 will be the date when employees of the Ford Motor company will vote to determine whether a union shall receive exclusive bargaining rights in Henry Ford's Motor plant. Both CIO and A. F. of L. leaders declared that their respective organization will win the election.

This election will be the largest ever held for any individual factory. 83,000 eligible workers in the Ford plant are expected to vote. Approximately 60 different voting booths will be erected in the plant for the convenience of the voters and payroll lists typed on long narrow sheets of paper which form a pile almost two feet high contain the 83,000 names of eligible employes.

Organizing campaigns are being conducted by both the A. F. of L. and the CIO in much the same fashion that campaigns are conducted in the various municipalities throughout the nation prior to a big municipal, State or national elections.

Secrecy will surround the voting, with each employe casting his ballot in a curtained booth, and an average of about 1,500 are expected to vote at each booth on Wednesday, May 21.

The Ford Motor Company thruout its 30-odd-year history has been conducted as an "open shop." Henry Ford and other officials of the company have always insisted that the Ford plant has been a place where high wages originated. They point with pride to the fact that when Ford began paying unskilled laborers $5 a day a quarter of a century ago and instituted an eight-hour working day for five days a week that the Ford Motor Company established a precedent which that company alone followed for many years. Moreover, the company declares that it was the only automobile plant in America that has ever given Negroes a chance to work as skilled laborers and technicians in considerable numbers. Henry Ford, admittedly an individualist, insists that labor reformation, however necessary and applicable in other automobile plants, is not necessary in the Ford Motor Company set-up. In Mr. Ford's opinion organized labor contains some good and is applicable to some shops but not to the Ford Motor Company. Moreover, he bitterly charges that organized labor creates rascals and scoundrels whom he terms "racketeers."

Ford insists further that the CIO is deeply honeycombed with Communists whom he detests and whose activities are un-American and destructive.

All in all, Henry Ford seems to detest the CIO organization, and he has no brief for the A. F. of L., but of the two he prefers the A. F. of L.

Some voiced the opinion that Mr. Ford's unalterable antipathy for the CIO has come because it was the CIO that brought about the strike which closed the Ford Motor Company's plant and forced Ford officials to recognize organized labor.

On the other side of the fence the CIO and the A. F. of L. point to many significant benefits that have grown out of labor organizations, including seniority rights, the abolition of child labor, compulsory wage increases, bargaining rights, unemployment compensation, pensions, etc.

The Negro public of Detroit is sharply and definitely divided on the subject of whether or not the CIO or the A. F. of L. should be victorious in the election to be held at the Ford Motor plant on May 21. Many of those who favor the CIO point to the fact that that particular group universally has given the Negro worker a squarer deal than the A. F. of L. Most of those who favor the A. F. of L. do so out of deference to Henry Ford and in consideration of his having given profitable employment to large numbers of Negroes throughout the years. Too, they are mindful of the fact that Negroes working for the Ford Motor Company have been elevated, whereas Negroes working in other automobile plants, except in isolated cases, have remained in the unskilled brackets.

351-1941 MICHIGAN

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HOLD ON!

RACE WORKERS SHOULD STICK WITH UNIONS, DESPITE "NICE BOSS" LIKE MR. FORD.

APR 1 2 1941

BY MARJORIE MCKENZIE

THE CURRENT crisis in Ford's River Rouge plant highlights the whole question of the practices, program and philosophy of Negro labor. On April 2, the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress called on the Negro automobile workers to cease strike-breaking activities and stand with the labor union. Obviously, the Congress is meting out some sterling advice.

Organized labor, unless it hangs itself with the unnecessary lengths of rope in which it is now enmeshed, is here to stay. Organized labor, unless it dooms its future by needless violence and stupid tactical methods during the emergency, is the only hope of job security for the Negro worker. The smart thing for him to do is to recognize this fact and to align himself with the side identified with his own interests. Too long has he been lulled into a continuance of obsolete employer-worker attitudes by the cloying paternalism of a "nice boss" like Mr. Ford.

Miss McKenzie

"WORST OFFENDER"

THE CONGRESS also addressed a letter to President Roosevelt concerning discrimination in industry under defense contracts. The Federal Government was described to the President as "the worst offender in discriminatory practices of a racial character." To quote an alleged statement of Chairman Mitchell of the Civil Service Commission: "Negro workers for the Government should be employed on a segregated basis in segregated units." The Administration has been singularly quiet about the status of the Negro in the defense effort, both in military and civilian life. The policy and the example of fair practice must, of course, emanate from Washington before any wide-scale consideration is accorded Negro citizens.

The stand taken by the National Negro Congress both in the Ford strike and the broader question of Government principles is a proper one. The Congress is not, however, the recognized spokesman of 12,000,000 loyal American citizens who still dare to believe that within the framework of the fundamental law of this land a democratic way of life can be worked out for all the people. The Congress must first purge itself of the elements which do not believe this before it can represent those who do. By the same token, the labor unions must purge themselves of the hot-headed radicals who obstruct the smooth cooperation of which industry and labor are capable.

APR 1 2 1941

CONFERENCE NEEDED

WE DO OWE the Congress a debt of gratitude for revealing anew to us the area where our leadership has defaulted. We have no organized leadership to determine our labor policy. We ought to call a labor conference immediately. Not just another church social, but a competent, technically skilled mediation board composed of economists teaching in our universities, labor lawyers and labor leaders and organizers. These are the people with the knowledge of acceptable theories, the practical experience with the problems and the techniques to initiate legal courses of action.

APR 1 2 1941

The National Defense Committees under the leadership of Dr. Rayford Logan are to have an early conference with the President on how to make the Negro effective in defense. Why not start with labor? Among the pertinent questions that could be asked of Mr. Roosevelt is one as to why he doesn't have a Negro representative on his Labor Mediation Board. What about a Negro in the Office of Production Management? We recommend to him the successful veteran of many of labor's battles—Mr. A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. We also nominate Mr. Randolph as the spearhead of the labor conference, we ought to call to chart the course for the embattled Negro worker.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

THE MAJORITY OPPOSE CIO; MEN SATISFIED

APR 1 3 1941

Unions Keep Up Strife

DETROIT, — (By Robert A. Crump for ANP)—April 1 has long been designated as "All Fools Day" when surprises and pranks are played on the unsuspecting, but it will take some time to tell on which side of a long drawn out situation the joke is on, the UAW-CIO, who called a sit-down strike at the Ford Motor company, resulting in idleness for 85,000 workers and stoppage of production, or Ford company itself.

The CIO has been in the process of organizing the Ford workers for several months relative to becoming the collective bargaining agency for all Ford employees. That organization boasts of having a majority of the workers as members and is clamoring for a vote to determine this fact, while the Ford company is fighting the decisions of the National Labor Relations board.

Mr. Ford has constantly informed his employees that they do not have to pay an outside agency a dollar a month to work for him. As to the colored employees, they are reminded of their positions with the company as skilled artisans, operators of every type of machinery, electricians, repairmen and the like, besides the fact that something like 12,000 Negroes are employed there.

Wish to Remain

According to the best information obtainable, the Negroes wish to remain loyal to the company and will have nothing to do with the union. With this great number holding out it has proven difficult to the union forces to get a firm foothold. At this early date it can not now be determined just how many, if any at all, are among the sit-downers who stopped production in several departments.

APR 1 3 1941

In the streets there are discussions on both sides of the situation. There are many who join with the Negro Ford workers in their loyalty to the company that has given such a great number employment. Some go back 20 years or more when Mr. Ford first began to pay high wages and employed Negroes in great numbers, classing the union as a racket designed to keep up eternal strife and bickering, strikes and so on which periodically throw men out of work causing them to lose money.

Colored Workers Satisfied

The other school of thought believes that the union setup is moving on to a greater day for the laboring man. They argue that this is a day of collective bargaining, vacations with pay, seniority, unemployment insurance, occupational disease payments, higher wages and many other things which they believe has been brought about by the UAW-CIO. They believe that the Negro laborer, who has nothing to lose, should join forces with every sane and sound movement that has even a semblance of bettering his condition.

Mr. Ford is said to be hardheaded and determined that his plants shall not be unionized, that is, to the point of recognizing an "outside force" to bargain with him for his employees. Thus far he has not succumbed to the NLRB. The union, with a coterie of shrewd leaders and organizers succeed in its organizational work here, is equally determined to while the colored workers seemingly remain in complacent and satisfied with both wages and conditions.

APR 1 3 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

God-Mammon

THOSE WHO PULLED STRINGS FROM BEHIND IN FORD FEUD SHOULD BE SMOKED OUT.

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

APR 19 1941

ACCORDING to the daily press at this writing the Ford strike has been settled and the 85,000 workers at the River Rouge plant have returned to work. During the week many interesting and important facts have come to light.

In the first place impartial witnesses have give nevidence that the 1500-odd Negroes who stayed in the plant did so at the tacit, if not coercive, insistence of plant officials. As a matter of fact there is some evidence to support the charge that many of the "imprisoned" Negro workers were not regular Ford workers, but were recruited for the specific purpose of attacking the picket line and committing acts of sabotage which could be blamed on the union. One reliable observed stated that the gates were opened and the Negroes went out to attack the picket line without a single act of provocation being committed by the strikers.

Mr. Cayton

APR 19 1941

The second fact which stands out is the attitude of many Negro leaders who supported the strike. There is no doubt that most of the so-called Negro upper-class believed in the great white father of Dearborn, but I personally was surprised at the number of individuals and organizations who come out for the union. Among

The pitiless light of publicity should be turned on this situation, which so nearly spelt the doom for Negroes in the new labor movement, to examine the alignment of every organization and individual in the community. These "race men" should be smoked out and made to take a position. There is no middle ground. In Detroit the Negro community, depending for employment on the automobile industry, must determine its attitude toward organized labor—no community organization can be impartial—they are either for or against.

APR 19 1941

"RACE MAN" SHOULD BE SMOKED OUT

TO ME it is surprising to find those few who did have courage enough to stand by their union convictions. I will admit that the automobile workers unions has its faults but it is on the whols the only protection which, Negro and white workers alike, have against the harsh exploitation of Ford. The community is entitled to know who supported the movement, who fought against it, and why. All progressive groups in Detroit should smoke out their leaders to determine who is connected with who, and who forms their attitude toward unions because someone gives them a new car every year.

MANY FOR UNION

THE Michigan Chronicle editorialized, "a few thousand Negro workers cannot stop the march of organized labor in America . . the unionization of the Ford motor company will not depend upon the wishes of a few thousand Negroes." Walter White of the National NAACP issued a statement saying, "Gratitude of Negro workers to Henry Ford for jobs . . is understandable, but . . Negro Ford workers . . cannot afford to rely on the personal kindness of any individual when what the workers want is justice."

APR 19 1941

Senator Diggs before a mass meeting of 20,000; "True Democracy, and the laws of the land are on our side. We shall prove that there are no Negro workers or white workers. We are just American workers willing to live or die together. This is the new way, and this is the only way."

Detroit has many lessons for the Negro population of the nation.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

WALTER CHIVERS SAYS:

APR 13 1941

Mass Insecurity

The restiveness of labor, that is organized labor, as it is being so graphically displayed in the current multiplicity of strikes is in large measure the result of feeling of mass insecurity. This mass fear of starvation is the continuation of a dynamic movement which started in Europe near the end of the nineteenth century and took on the shape of Communism and Fascism some twenty years ago in Russia and Italy.

APR 13 1941

CHIVERS

The years of experience with Fascism and Communism naturally forced adjustments and produced new leaders, leaders from among the insecure masses of people. These men, Stalin, Mussolini and then the "mad genius" of the crowd, Adolf Hitler, arose to their positions as dictators because they were and are practical students of mass psychology. The evidence of this fact is their demonstrated astuteness in manipulating the masses.

The insecurity discussed here is largely a matter of "psychological massism". The terms " masses or massism" being more basic than "people". We refer to "clots of humanity" and these "clots" are highly maniputable when the manipulation is done by practical students of mass psychology. These students must be of the people whom they would lead because their success is dependent upon their sensitiveness to the tensions and pressures among the masses.

No other in the history of the modern United States has so adequately fitted in this picture of mass economic leadership as has John L. Lewis, the ex-miner, who founded and built the CIO. The present "economic guerilla warfare" commonly referred to as strikes is largely waged by the CIO unions. They are more than strikes, they are forms of economic warfare. Their force, severity and stubbornness are the result of a long period of an increasing feeling of insecurity.

The "defendants" in these guerilla skirmishes, commonly referred to as "big business" have too often shown a kind of blindness that prevents their seeing the "masses" except as blurred masses of incoherence. They cannot discern the latent tensions alive in the bosoms of these "common folk". So as Henry Ford, is at present doing, they have over the years done—that is try to press a covering lid down on the boiling emotions of their workers. The result is the same as when one foolishly tries to force a lid to stay on a boiling pot—explosion.

APR 13 1941

This writer, during an address delivered before a group of college men in Detroit last summer, was "rash" enough to suggest to them that they join the ranks of the CIO, get jobs in the Ford Plant and get ready for the imminent "pay off". The "pay off" was to be leadership of the great mass of Negroes working in Ford's Plants. They laughed as this advice and told the speaker point blank that he did not know what he was talking about. They could not conceive of a real and effective battle being waked between the Ford method of manipulating labor and John L. Lewis method of manipulating the masses.

APR 13 1941

The result of this type of blindness is typical. The horrible example for these young Negro college men is the brutalization of the non-union Negro laborers at Ford's River Rouge plant. Negroes are fighting the strikers, the union members and among themselves. They are reported to be using clubs, knives and razors. Where will they be when the strike is settled? The tensions and pressures that caused the Ford explosion were present last summer. This writer felt them on a trip through the Ford plant and observed them in the City of Detroit. Not a Single Ford worker interviewed was a "contented" worker. He was a "frightened" worker.

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

Negro Ford Workers Receive Equal Pay

MAY 1 - 1941

Of the 20,000 workers who went back to work at the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant, after the settlement of the United Automobile Workers Strike, there were 1,200 Negroes whose average wage scale ranged fom $6.00 to $7 20 per day. The Detroit newspapers have carried statements of the executives of the UAW setting forth the union's official position on the question of the Negro as covered in its constitution and enforced by its contracts.

MAY 1 - 1941

The points are "That Negro Ford Workers will receive the same pay as other workers doing the same work and will share equally in all other benefits provided by such a contract." "The Negro Ford workers will not lose any privileges or positions that they have enjoyed at the Ford Motor Company, they are to enjoy greater privileges, job security, and more promotions on the basis of seniority."

351-1941

MICHIGAN

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro and White Unity at Ford's

APR 5 - 1941

Mich

• One of the splendid features of the Ford strike is that Negro and white union members are fighting shoulder to shoulder for better wages and working conditions.

On the other hand, one of the most dastardly acts of Henry Ford, and of the labor-hating press, is their attempt to sow racial hatred between Negro and white workers, and their effort to give the impression that the strike is on a racial basis.

This is an unprincipled attack upon the Negro people, an insult to their dignity, and a distortion of their well-known record as fine union members. No one should be surprised at such a fascist trick by Henry Ford, the chief anti-Semite in the country and the man who proudly wears a medal from Adolph Hitler. As a powerful industrialist who always sought to incite hatred and persecution of Jewish Americans, he is now trying to whip up hatred against the Negro people.

Approximately 12,000 Negroes work, under discriminatory conditions, in Ford's River Rouge plant. Taken as a whole the great majority are out with the United Automobile Workers just as are the great majority of white workers. But Ford and the commercial newspapers are trying to take a handful of unfortunately misguided Negroes to obscure this fact. The Negro workers too, have voted for the CIO United Automobile Workers by their stand in the strike, thus exposing the ridiculous claims of the notoriously anti-Negro A. F. of L. leaders and Homer Martin that the Negro workers support their strikebreaking.

APR 5 - 1941

The outstanding record of the Negro auto workers places a great responsibility upon the union to see that every vestige of discrimination is broken down against them, that they receive recognition in union offices, promotions, equal pay, seniority rights, and complete equality in all of Ford's plants—in line with the established policy of the CIO.

In cementing Negro and white unity, the UAW is following a policy which assures it of ultimate success in Ford's citadel of wage slavery and Hitlerism. Meanwhile, the entire Negro people have a vital stake in giving full support to the auto workers who are struggling for a decent existence.

APR 5 - 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HOLD ON!

RACE WORKERS SHOULD STICK WITH UNIONS, DESPITE "NICE BOSS" LIKE MR. FORD.

APR 12 1941

Mich

BY MARJORIE MCKENZIE

APR 12 1941

THE CURRENT crisis in Ford's River Rouge plant highlights the whole question of the practices, program and philosophy of Negro labor. On April 2, the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress called on the Negro automobile workers to cease strike-breaking activities and stand with the labor union. Obviously, the Congress is meting out some sterling advice.

Miss McKenzie

Organized labor, unless it hangs itself with the unnecessary lengths of rope in which it is now enmeshed, is here to stay. Organized labor, unless it dooms its future by needless violence and stupid tactical methods during the emergency, is the only hope of job security for the Negro worker. The smart thing for him to do is to recognize this fact and to align himself with the side identified with his own interests. Too long has he been lulled into a continuance of obsolete employer-worker attitudes by the cloying paternalism of a "nice boss" like Mr. Ford.

"WORST OFFENDER"

THE CONGRESS also addressed a letter to President Roosevelt concerning discrimination in industry under defense contracts. The Federal Government was described to the President as "the worst offender in discriminatory practices of a racial character." To quote an alleged statement of Chairman Mitchell of the Civil Service Commission: "Negro workers for the Government should be employed on a segregated basis in segregated units." The Administration has been singularly quiet about the status of the Negro in the defense effort, both in military and civilian life. The policy and the example of fair practice must, of course, emanate from Washington before any wide-scale consideration is accorded Negro citizens.

The stand taken by the National Negro Congress both in the Ford strike and the broader question of Government principles is a proper one. The Congress is not, however, the recognized spokesman of 12,000,000 loyal American citizens who still dare to believe that within the framework of the fundamental law of this land a democratic way of life can be worked out for all the people. The Congress must first purge itself of the elements which do not believe this before it can represent those who do. By the same token, the labor unions must purge themselves of the hot-headed radicals who obstruct the smooth cooperation of which industry and labor are capable.

APR 12 1941

CONFERENCE NEEDED

WE DO OWE the Congress a debt of gratitude for revealing anew to us the area where our leadership has defaulted. We have no organized leadership to determine our labor policy. We ought to call a labor conference immediately. Not just another church social, but a competent, technically skilled mediation board composed of economists teaching in our universities, labor lawyers and labor leaders and organizers. These are the people with the knowledge of acceptable theories, the practical experience with the problems and the techniques to initiate legal courses of action.

APR 12 1941

The National Defense Committees under the leadership of Dr. Rayford Logan are to have an early conference with the President on how to make the Negro effective in defense. Why not start with labor? Among the pertinent questions that could be asked of Mr. Roosevelt is one as to why he doesn't have a Negro representative on his Labor Mediation Board. What about a Negro in the Office of Production Management? We recommend to him the successful veteran of many of labor's battles—Mr. A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. We also nominate Mr. Randolph as the spearhead of the labor conference, we ought to call to chart the course for the embattled Negro worker.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Ford Auto Union Elects Negro Officer

NOV 23 1941

DETROIT, ~~Mich., Nov.~~ 20—The Ford local of the United Automobile Workers (CIO), whose 90,000 members constitute the largest local union in the country, elected a Negro automobile worker as an official of the union at an election meeting held here this week at Chadsey high school.

The man was Shelton Tapps, well known Negro leader and member of the National Negro Congress, who was named secretary of the local. The election meeting was attended by 300 General Council delegates from River Rouge and Lincoln, largest segments of the huge Ford factory here.

NOV 23 1941

As if to implement this action which highlighted the growing unity of Negro and white workers in the automobile industry, the national council of Ford locals in forty cities, which represents 130,000 workers unanimously adopted a strong resolution condemning the Ku Klux Klan and other splitting agencies that try to divide Negro and white workers.

Pittsburgn Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FORD STRIKE JEOPARDIZES NEGRO-UNION RELATIONSHIP

Cayton Pictures the Issues Involved in the Detroit Labor Riots—Ford Has Been Godfather to Race in Automobile Industry.

APR 12 1941

By HORACE R. CAYTON
Courier Labor Expert

DETROIT, Mich., April 10.—The tragedy of race relations in the industrial field has never been more clearly shown than during the present Ford strike. Pictures of the brutal beatings which white pickets have administered to Negro scabs, have revolted the senses of many Negroes throughout the country and again reinforced their hatred and fear of white workers and union organizations and their belief in the goodness of benevolent employers.

Mr. Cayton

On the other hand, many white workers are reconvinced that Negroes are, as ever, strike breakers, never to be trusted or depended upon. Both the Negro and the white workers believe that they are fighting for their rights as American citizens—the tragedy is that this racial difference is endangering he union organization on one hand, and building up further barriers against Negro-white cooperation on the other.

First it should be realized that this is no ordinary strike. As stated by me some months ago the campaign to gain recognition of the automobile union is not an organizing campaign of the common garden variety, but is one which holds great possibilities and dangers for all of organized labor.

There is no doubt that Henry Ford is, viciously and criminally, anti-union. There have been seven National Labor Relations Board decisions against him and the United States Circuit Court has upheld two of the major decisions. All workers in the Ford plant, including Negroes, suffer from the speed-up, the possibility of brutal treatment from Ford's "service men" (private police force) and enjoy a wage which is about ten cents an hour below that of workers in other automobile plants. Working conditions for both Negroes and whites are poor as judged by the rest of the industry. Why then, have Negroes, for the most part, refused to join with their fellow white workers?

HALF WORKERS IN FORD PLANT

APR 12 1941

Let us examine first the company's attitude toward black workers. Ford was farsighted in hiring Negroes when many other automobile manufacturers would not hire them at all, or employed them in very limited numbers. The large increase of Negroes in the automobile industry came between 1910 and 1930. Using 1900 as a base of 100 by 1930 there were, for that original 100, 4,551 Negro workers in the industry. During that twenty-year span Negroes increased in absolute numbers from 569 to 25,895.

APR 12 1941

Of that number we find, however, that the eleven or twelve thousand employed by the Ford Rouge Plant alone constitutes between 45 and 50 per cent of that total number of Negroes in the automobile industry. There can be no doubt that Ford has provided jobs for plenty of Negroes and the Negro is (and understandably so) thankful for employment.

Throughout the industry the vast majority of Negro automobile workers are employed in the foundry, paint, and maintenance departments (chiefly as janitors) or as general unskilled labor. In these occupations the accident rate is higher and the work the most undesirable in the industry. This situation, which characterizes the entire industry, is true of the Ford Rouge plant in degree, but the difference is important.

FORD HAS MANY SKILLED WORKERS

Although Ford concentrates Negroes in the unskilled and unpleasant positions, it is also true that only in the Rouge plant are Negroes permitted to work on every type of operation connected with automobile manufacturing. The Rouge final assembly is the only final assembly line in the United States employing Negroes. Negroes are also employed on all of the various types of machine and press operations in the Motor, "B," spring and Upset and Pressed Steel buildings.

Workers in these departments are entirely white in every other automobile factory in the country. Again, the Rouge is the only automobile plant in which Negro tool and die makers are employed. Though disproportionate for their numbers in the plant the Rouge has a number of Negro foremen and possibly more than in all of the rest of the industry combined.

"BLOOD BATHS" ARE EVIDENCE OF LOYALTY

Thus it can been seen that Ford has hired Negroes, given them representation throughout the plant (though not proportionate to their numbers) and as far as race relations are concerned has set a model for the entire industry. Nor has he neglected to work on the Negro community. Through gifts, subsidies and "educational" lectures, by his Negro personnel men he has convinced them of what they already knew; that he was feeding them and expected them to be loyal. That Negroes were loyal was given cruel evidence in the blood bath pictures splashed throughout the nation's press.

On the other hand the C. I. O. has made a desperate effort to break down color barriers and it presents the greatest hope for Negro laborers since the Knights of Labor. To spurn this advance on the part of organized labor would set a dangerous precedent and would give confirmation to the beliefs of many union members and officials that Negroes are unorganizable. It will be a bitter blow to those who look to the future of the Negro in trade union organizations if this most crucial strike is lost by the use of Negro scabs.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Workers Flock to Ford Strike in Thousands

APR 7 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6.—In response to a vigorous appeal made by State Senator Charles Diggs that they stay "on the side of the workers," thousands of Negroes at Ford's have lined up with the United Auto Workers (CIO) in the union's drive to organize the Company's huge River Rouge plant in Detroit, officials of the National Negro Congress revealed today.

In a telegram to John P. Davis, national secretary of the Congress, Senator Diggs exposed the motor magnate's vicious plan to provoke race riots among the Negro and white workers, and thus split the union's forces. A small "minority of ruffians" have been taken in, he said, by the "propaganda of Don Marshall, one of Ford's personnel directors that if the CIO organizes Ford the Negro will lose out." While playing up the riot angle, Congress officials declared, the Metropolitan press has studiously avoided shedding any light on the facts underlying this phase of Ford's brutal anti-labor policies.

The Michigan State Senator gave full support to the Negro Congress' all-out campaign of aid to the strikers. **"I assure you,"** he said, **"that I am with the movement to organize Ford and that he will be organized notwithstanding the old communistic bugaboo."**

Diggs has a long record of fighting on the side of organized labor. He is the author of the proposed state minimum wage bill, which is designed to raise the basic living standard of workers living in Michigan. He has been in the thick of every important fight to abolish discrimination against Negroes throughout the state.

The complete text of his telegram follows:

APR 7 1941

"Ford's program of rugged individualism and being a law unto himself has come to a climax. He has run head on into the question of whether we will have democracy or dictatorship. Some innocent and ill-advised Negroes have been caught in the Ford fiasco which in my opinion is a blot on American history and if continued on the basis that Ford desires will destroy American democracy.

"I have issued a statement as I did in the Chrysler strike to the effect that the Negroes' place is definitely on the side of the workers. To this plea thousands of Negro Ford workers have responded favorably. There are nevertheless a small minority of ruffians employed by Ford and assigned to his service department for the express purpose of strikebreaking that are not responding to the appeal.

APR 7 1941

"The excuses for this attitude taken by these strikebreakers are as follows: first, Ford has given them better jobs in his plant than other automobile companies; second, the attitude taken towards the Negro workers by the American Federation of Labor in the past; third, the propaganda used by Don Marshall, one of Ford's personnel directors that if the CIO organizes Ford the Negro will lose out. I assure you that I am with the movement to organize Ford and that he will be organized notwithstanding the old communistic bugaboo. In Michigan we are all good Americans."

35i-1941

MICHICAN

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FUTURE OF NEGRO HANGS IN BALANCE

APR 12 1941

200 Injured During Big River Rouge Strike—Both Sides Make Overtures to Colored Workers—Opinion Divided.

DETROIT, April 10.—The great Ford Motor company, America's largest and wealthiest industrial empire, remains closed today, and a nemesis seems crouched upon the shoulders of Henry Ford, the automobile wizard whom Wall Street once called the "lone wolf" in America's gigantic industrial mart. Some declare that it has required a conspiracy of labor, Wall Street, and Hitler to close, for the first time in its history, the colossal River Rouge factory.

FORD AND ORGANIZED LABOR IN FINISH FIGHT

Throughout recent years, organized labor—the CIO and the A. F. of L.—has sought unceasingly to find the Ford Motor Company's vulnerable spot. With equal determination Henry Ford has continued to build his empire so that an enemy attack might find it impregnable.

Unlike competitive automobile plants, the Ford Motor Company has always given Negro labor a free hand. Here the Negro worker has been able to advance beyond the sphere of unskilled circles.

APR 12 1941

Ford has felt that his Negro employees are not only cognizant of that fact but that they are so appreciative they can be depended upon to stand in the front line trenches, as it were, and battle for Ford against organized labor.

Time marches on, and in its strides, conditions change. Only recently the Ford Motor Company seemed to recognize the progress that organized labor has made. **Then the CIO was definitely and deeply entrenched beyond the Ford** threshold. A short while back Ford seemed to realize that he must eventually recognize organized labor. He detested the CIO, and he had no love for the A. F. of L., but of the two evils he seemed to prefer the A. F. of L. Consequently a belated effort was made to build up the A. F. of L. so that when an inevitable ballot would be cast, the CIO would be outnumbered and out-voted.

200 NEGRO WORKERS INJURED DURING STRIKE

The CIO anticipated the Ford technique and beat Ford to "the draw." It called the strike that has closed the doors of the Ford Motor Company for the first time in its 38 year history.

When the strike was called at midnight on Tuesday several thousand Negro employes remained at the plant and endeavored to fight off the picketers. Out-numbered, they proved no match for the 10,000 CIO picketers.

It is rumored that more than 200 Negro Ford employes have been injured since the strike began. Most of the fighting was done Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Despite the fact that the CIO boasts of having a large number of Negro members, there are only a handful of Negro picketers among the thousands doing duty at the Ford plant; consequently during the first day or two the strike assumed an aspect of a racial clash. Some declare that the CIO did not assign Negro members to picket duty; others voiced the opinion that, despite CIO membership, Negroes were reluctant to join the ranks of those that had set out to wreck the Ford empire.

I. A. Capizzi, attorney for the Ford interests, has succeeded in getting a Federal Court injunction that declares that Ford employes may return to work without being molested. Such an injunction has proven empty inasmuch as the plant remains closed, and picket lines are still around the plant. On Saturday about 800 of the 3,000 Negro workers who had been kept in the plant were released and allowed to pass through the picket lines unmolested. Both the CIO and the A. F. of L. are still diligently signing Ford workers. It is impossible to tell which organization has the more Negro members.

CIO WANTS SIX POINTS ACCEPTED

Labor Conciliator James F. Dewey, and Governor Van Wagoner have done everything they could to negotiate peace, but the CIO and the Ford Motor Company are as far apart as they were when the strike first opened. The union is insisting that the company recognize the CIO as is the case in other local automobile manufacturing plants, and that the following six points be accepted before the strike is called off.

First, seniority rights.

Second, a ten cent per hour increase in wages.

Third, two weeks vacation with pay.

Fourth, abandonment of the "spy" system (the CIO declares that Ford's non-uniformed police officers under personnel director Harry Bennett, constitute a spy system).

Fifth, time and one-half for Saturday work.

Sixth, double time for Sunday.

In addition to the above six points, the union declares that all Ford CIO employes who were discharged for union activities be reinstated. Harry Bennett, personnel director, declares that the Ford Motor Company will never rehire eight former employes whom he insists were responsible for the present strike.

LINES OF CLEAVAGE AMONG NEGRO LEADERS

As might be expected, there are sharp lines of cleavage among Negro leaders as to whether the Ford Motor Company or the CIO should win the strike. Some are prone to be sympathetic with Ford, because the Ford Motor Company has always hired the largest number of Negroes employed by any manufacturer here or anywhere else in the world, and that Negroes working at Fords are permitted to work in any department for which they are fitted by merit, whereas in other plants, except in a very few isolated cases, Negroes are employed only as unskilled laborers.

Negro leaders who lean towards the CIO point out that the day of open shops has passed and that the Negro must line up with organized labor if he expects to enjoy labor reforms which are made possible by organized labor efforts.

There seems to be a very definite preference to CIO affiliation as against the A. F. of L., because it is declared that of the two unions the CIO has been decidedly more kindly disposed towards Negro interests and causes than the A. F. of L. Negro leaders consider that it is unfortunate that Ford found it necessary to make it appear that Negroes were fighting CIO picketers. In their opinion this is a strike between the Ford Motor Company and the CIO and that Negroes should not be used as spearheads by either side.

N. A. A. C. P. SOUND TRUCK URGES END TO FIGHTING

The N. A. A. C. P. has urged Negroes and white workers alike to lay down their arms and stop fighting. It declares that the motive of the N. A. A. C. P. in going out to the Ford Rouge plant in a sound truck was to prevent the possible injection of a racial issue into the strike and to prevent as far as possible race clashes.

R. J. Thomas, president, and Michael F. Widman, Jr., director of the Ford Organizing Committee, UAW-CIO, charged that the Ford Motor Company is deliberately "exciting racial hatreds in an effort to break the ranks of its striking employes."

They charged also that the company has violated its understanding with Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner, to keep the plant closed during a period of negotiations, by attempting to mobolize Negro workers for a forced march into the Rouge plant.

The union leaders' statement follows:

"Among the many disreputable tactics used by the Ford Motor Company in an effort to provoke violence in the present strike and to break the ranks of the strikers is the vicious practice of sowing hatred and discord between Negro and white workers.

"Testimony of eye-witnesses, supported by published photographs in the daily press, reveal the fact that a crowd of several hundred Negro workers emerged from the Rouge plant at gate four, Miller Road, yesterday and attacked a much smaller group of peaceful pickets, many of whom were painfully and som seriously injured.

"The men who came from the plant wer armed with iron bars and other weapons, consisting of steel and iron automobile parts whic are the property of the Ford Motor Company The mob could not have taken these weapon without the permission of members of the For service department then inside the plant. Several of these weapons were hurled at the picket and specimens were shown to Governor Van Wagoner yesterday.

"The UAW-CIO by constitution and practic does not tolerate racial discrimination. There are thousands of loyal Negro union member among the Ford workers as well as in othe local unions. We urge all Negro Ford worker and all members of the Negro community not t permit members of their race to be made catspaw of a conscienceless company which doe not hesitate to stoop to the most un-American practices.

"We ask all Negro workers to stand shoulde to shoulder with all other workers so that th strike may be carried through peacefully and effectively for the benefit of all the workers in the plant."

Members of the Detroit Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People circled the Rouge gates for hours in a sound truck, which broadcast appeals to Negro Ford workers not to act as strike-breakers, the union is informed.

The Ford Motor Company has $155,000,000 worth of National Defense contracts. It is estimated that the loss in wages to the 85,000 employes during the strike is approximately $640,000 per day. Already business is feeling the sudden loss in purchasing power. This is particularly true of Negro business because there are more than 11,000 Negroes on the Ford rolls.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Elected Officer In Ford Auto Union Local

Named Secretary Of Largest Local In the Nation

DETROIT, Mich.—(S N S)—The Ford local of the United Automobile Workers, (CIO), whose 90,000 members constitute the largest local union in the country, elected a Negro automobile worker as an official of the union at an election meeting held here this week at Chadsey High School.

The man was Shelton Tapps, well known Negro leader, who was named secretary of the local. The election meeting was attended by 300 General Council delegates from River Rouge and Lincoln, largest segments of the huge Ford factory

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'Henry Ford and the Negro People'---
The Record of Feudal Crimes

MAY 3 - 1941

William L. Patterson

Detroit's Council of the National Negro Congress has made a signal contribution to the working class of America. It has exploded the myth of the friendship of Henry Ford for the Negro people. But the recently published pamphlet "Henry Ford and the Negro People" is not only for the consumption of Negro workers. "Henry Ford and the Negro People" should be read by every white Ford employe.

"Henry Ford and the Negro People" is not alone of importance for Ford workers, however. It is of value to all those throughout our country, regardless of race, nationality, creed or color who are determined to put the facts before the people. These facts reveal the true character of the monopolists who here and there finance a Negro school or build a Negro church in order to hide their true anti-Negro character, while behind the scenes they are using the influence they have bought and paid for by bribing weak elements among the Negro people and their control of radio and press and school to create prejudices and to pit the white worker against the Negro worker or vice-versa.

MAY 3 - 1941

These "friends of the Negro people" are forever creating an atmosphere of racial hatred in which to split the labor movement along the color line.

EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES

Christopher C. Alston, who wrote this exposure of the great "Negro lover," Henry Ford, devotes himself to some of those activities of the boss of River Rouge that take place outside that feudal fortress on the little Michigan River. Ford controls a press; he owns Jim Crow towns; he has loaned money to Negro churches; he has an army of Negro hirelings ready to murder at his command, and all of these he has and is using against the interests of Negro America as a whole.

Henry Ford established, owned and controlled the Ford Dearborn Independent years ago. Some people knew of the Independent's attack upon the Jewish people. But few knew that anti-Semitism was only one of this paper's major campaigns. Yet Mr. Alston has dug from the record for the pamphlet an irrefutable story of Ford, the Negro baiter.

This young Negro CIO man, Alston, has taken us back to the days of 1919, 1920 and 1921, when Henry Ford began to see that hiring Negroes—a few thousand—might be made very profitable in a period of labor strife. Negroes were leaving the lynch-ridden South. They were seeking larger economic advantages in the North. These people were seeking a greater measure of political expression and they were searching to find for themselves and their children a place in America, their country, in which to realize some cultural development. Thousands of those black men and women who fled the chain gang, peonage and share-cropping system, and the system of disfranchisement through lynch law and poll tax law came to the automobile city.

CHAMPIONED KLAN

The Ku Klux Klan menaced this migration—both South and North. Negroes were murdered at Southern railroad depots. In the North, the Ford paper was one of those foul sheets which came forward as the champion of the Klan. Why seek to expose the un-American, subversive and un-democratic practices of the Klan, says the Independent in effect, as it brazenly writes:

"Suppose some tens of thousands of men had banded themselves together for certain purposes; suppose some of the charges made against their order were true—there have been orders which have avowed more detestable purposes; into whose ranks more abuses have crept, but they have never been given publicity."

MAY 3 - 1941

From this statement out of the mouth of Henry Ford's press we can only draw this conclusion:

"We must not expose the Klan; we must not give its murderous deeds publicity; we must shield this flower of American civilization."

"Suppose" that the Klan had "certain purposes." So what?

DEFIED DEMOCRACY

But as "Henry Ford and the Negro People" shows, the "certain purposes" of the Klan were through violence and terror to make impossible the realization of those American conditions which Negroes fled the South to attain. Those "certain purposes" were not only anti-Negro, but anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic as well; these purposes struck at the very roots of the democracy of Jefferson, Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. They struck at law and order and at all civil and religious liberties.

"Suppose some of the charges" against the Klan were true. "So what?" asks Henry Ford. But those charges, based upon proof, were of murder and arson, pillage and rape, for the Negro women ravished by the Klan thugs are legion. Well, other gangs of murderers "have avowed more detestable purposes," Henry shouts, and as he shouts the legend of Henry Ford, the friend of none save the most savage and bestial dregs of society, explodes in thin air, or in the faces of his defenders.

MAY 3 - 1941

This little pamphlet shows that Ford marches onward from the defense of the Klan to an attack upon Negroes as rapists. Mr. Ford was far too considerate of their feelings to blame the Negro people alone for their possession of such a characteristic. There were others equally to blame. Thank God and Henry Ford that Negroes are not inherently rapists—they are made so! This Christian man "discovered" that "Nigger gin" did the trick. Here is how it was done.

POISONOUS LIES

"It turned out that the maker of a brand of 'Nigger gin' which had spurred certain Negroes on to the nameless crime was one Lee Levy" . . . "such gins were sold everywhere in Birmingham" . . . "a bottle of this stuff, half empty, had been taken from a Pickens County Negro just after his arrest for the nameless crime."

And so the Ford sheet spewed its poisonous lies of Negroes as rapists and Jews as accessories before the crime hoping thereby to incite hatred and contempt for both groups, in preparation for "Der Tag" when the many races Ford had drawn into the plant at River Rouge could be pitted against the Negro and the Negro could be the victim upon whose head the curse of strike-breaker might be placed.

"Henry Ford and the Negro People" carries us into the plant by the little Michigan river. You see Henry creating his Negro goon squads, placing these in "strategic" positions. The road past these tools of Ford's was the only road into the plant for an honest Negro worker. The honest man must not only pay the chief Negro thug, Don Marshall, but if he wants to hold his job, he is subject to the violence and terror of the Marshall gangsters unless he obeys the orders of their chief union-buster, gang-creator Harry Bennett. But the black men Henry Ford sought to make the enemies of unionism generally and later to turn into friends of the leadership of the A. F. of L which has always condemned them to a Jim Crow position in the labor movement, became loyal CIO members fighting for the unity of labor.

QUOTES LEWIS

The national office of the Negro Congress is to be complimented for inspiring this little pamphlet, which opens with a statement made by John L. Lewis to the Third Conference of the National Negro Congress in Washington. No one can read these words of the great leader of the CIO without unconsciously contrasting them with the silence of the man in the White House.

John L. Lewis calls for full co-operation of Negro and white labor in their mutual interest. Surely in the front ranks of these interests is the elimination of the Klan, Klanism and its supporters from our political and economic life.

John P. Davis, the fighting national secretary of the National Negro Congress writes a foreword: "In the interest of truth" calling for an all-out struggle to consolidate the successes already achieved by the CIO in Ford's and to go forward to complete victory.

The pamphlet closes on a note of solidarity from the pen of State Senator Charles C. Diggs of Michigan. This Negro leader is a friend of labor regardless of its color or its creed or political beliefs.

RECALLS LINCOLN

Mr. Alston has in his pamphlet given us a quotation from Lincoln on the rights of labor that is as vital today as when issuing from the mouth of that truly great President of the United States. Here it is:

MAY 3 - 1941

"I am glad to see that a system of labor prevails in New England under which laborers can strike when they want to, where they are not obliged to work under all circumstances * * * and wish it might prevail everywhere. One of the reasons why I am opposed to slavery is just here."

The struggle to organize Henry Ford's feudal realm is a battle against labor spies, terror in industry, Nazism as a method of "negotiation" between workers and employers. Certainly Negro America has to know these facts. This pamphlet will help. It is in truth indispensible.

MAY 3 - 1941

SOME WEAKNESSES

It brings forth another vital fact. The labor unions belong to workers, neither to whites alone nor Negroes, but to workers who must make of them instruments of struggle for the mutual interests of labor regardless of color or creed and must use these instruments fearlessly against all opposing forces. This is a great lesson. Give a copy of "Henry Ford and the Negro People" to the man on the other side of you on the line. It's only 3 cents. You can get it from the National N.W., Washington, D. C.

The pamphlet of course has its weaknesses. It fails to link the struggle at Ford's plant with the fight against the war, or to reveal Ford as one of the chief war-makers. This is, of course, essential. It fails also to link Ford up with the other monopolists who assume a different tactic toward Negroes and to show that Ford hired Negroes for the most pernicious purposes. But if these things are not said, they can be drawn from the facts with little effort. Nor does the pamphlet expose the foul nature of Ford's anti-Communist campaign.

The pamphlet is, however, extremely timely and should be scattered far and wide.

351-1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Statesmanlike to Try New Ways

Henry Ford's decision to work with the union which is his employes' choice as bargaining agent is based upon the principle that undergirds civilization. So long as man lived alone he could do as he pleased with results that affected only himself. But living in groups is a coperative job. One's wants and one's work are still his own, but they must be adjusted to those of others.

Ford, in yielding the program for his employes which he had followed, explained that since the old had not worked ideally, he could at least give the new proposal a trial. There spoke a statesman. He is the living exemplification of the spirit that keeps civilization going. It is not important that one do right. We all fail of perfection. But he should stand ready to try again. That is essentially what Henry Ford is doing. The same principle can help in many situations.

JUL 4 1941

One use we would see made of this willingness to try something new when the old does not work well, is in public affairs wherever custom has struggled along with problems and failed. Every failure is a call for intelligence to step in and try something new. Suppose Missouri, now under order by the United States supreme court to make education equal for all its citizens, instead of arguing why that is difficult, would admit that it has failed to educate Negroes and honestly and sincerely set out to shoulder its responsibility. If the state took Ford for its example, it would face toward the new order, and begin now to see how equal education can be brought about.

JUL 4 1941

Up to now Missouri has not tried to carry out the spirit of the supreme court's order for equal education. It has done exactly the reverse. Under the leadership of Representative Taylor of Keytesville, during the previous administration the state legislature passed—and Governor Stark gave his blessing to the sham—an "equal" education act, and then appropriated an obviously inadequate sum which proved the bad intent.

Two evils now grow where there used to be one. There is still the limited education for Negroes, and there is in addition the state's example encouraging law breaking.

Law observance is the security of organized society. Laws are not necessarily right, but obeying them is right whether they are or not. If right, it is their due. If wrong, it is the short road to their correction. Industrialist Ford need not admit that the new employer-employe plan is better than his own. But he says it is entitled to a trial, since the other has not been ideal.

Missouri, with its own progress to establish the failure of past customs and measures, should be not only willing but anxious to try something new. Instead though the supreme court tells it its short-comings, it balks and even adds to delinquency by breaking the law itself. We repeat—Henry Ford has set an example which has usefulness in many situations.

JUL 4 1941

MICHIGAN

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Urged For Executive Of Auto Union

Jm Ch

Ford Victory Speeding Move; Hardin Is Considered

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, July 13.—Members of the United Automobile Workers Union are in a spontaneous movement here to elect a Negro to the Executive Board of the [illegible]W-CIO at the convention in Buffalo beginning August 4. Walter Hardin, with a long record as a union man, is one of those who are being mentioned for the post.

In view of the organization of the Ford Motor Co. and the large number of Negroes now holding union membership, it is pointed out by those leading the campaign for a Negro on the Executive Board, there is a genuine need for a Negro in this position.

It was announced here last week that a Negro is expected to be elected building chairman at the Ford plant, several Negro shop-committeemen having already been elected durin gthe past few days. A number of Negro delegates to the Buffalo convention are being elected.

JUL 14 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Asks Restoration Of Negroes' Jobs

DEC 6 1941

R. J. Thomas Tells Packard Auto Local to Enforce Anti-Jim Crow Stand

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Dec. 5. — R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, has come to the defense of Thomas Bayer and James McCullers, expert Negro metal polishers with long seniority, in demanding that the CIO local of the Packard Motor Car Co. defense plant enforce the no-discrimination clause of its constitution.

Bayer and McCullers, recently transferred to defense production, had protested to the executive board of Packard Local 190 that certain whites had tried to "freeze" them out by refusing to work with them.

DEC 6 1941

The executive board voted unanimously to uphold the Negro workers and condemned the discrimination. The Interracial Committee of the UAW, appointed to handle cases of discrimination within the union, meanwhile brought the matter to Thomas' attention.

In a letter to the executive board of Packard Local 190 Thomas recalled that in an agreement between the Office of Production Management, the union and the automobile manufacturers a six-point program was agreed upon wherein "there is to be no discrimination in the transfer of employes." This six-point program is embodied in the contract with the company and in the union's constitution, Thomas' letter said.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Ford Unionists Move to End Negro Discrimination

Plant-Wide CIO Meeting in Detroit Pledges to Fight Any Ban on Transferring Negroes to Aircraft Division

Mich.

352

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Sept. 4.—A decision was adopted at a Ford plant-wide meeting in the Chadsey High School here last week to fight any attempt at Negro discrimination in the transferring of workers into the aircraft division of Ford Motor Co.

Adopted on the recommendation of Richard T. Leonard, newly-named director of the UAW-CIO Ford Organizing Committee, the decision read:

"That the union will not tolerate any discrimination relative to the transfer of workers into the aircraft division of the Ford Motor Co. The plant committee and responsible officers were instructed to see that this policy was carried out by the Ford Motor Co."

SEP 5 1941

This action followed complaints to the union that Negro discrimination was being practiced in the transferring of men to the aircraft division.

SEP 5 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CURRIER CO. MAKES NO DISTINCTION; HAS SIXTY RACE WORKERS

NOV 1 1941

DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 30—The P. J. Currier Lumber Company here which was denied a defense housing contract despite its low bid, is an employer of Negro labor without distinction as to types of jobs. This claim is contained in a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from Donald F. Currier, treasurer.

Denial of the contract to the Currier company by Sidney Hillman, Co-director of the Office of Production Management, in favor of A. F. of L. building trades unions means that the huge housing job will be done by unions which generally bar Negroes from membership.

GIVES AFL MONOPOLY

Hillman stirred a storm of protest by his so-called stabilization agreement with the A. F. of L. unions. It has been charged that this gave the A. F. of L. virtual monopoly in defense construction.

NOV 1 1941

The letter from the Currier company to the NAACP, dated October 22 states: "At the present time we have approximately 60 Negro employees. These men do the same type of work at the same rate of pay as any other employee. Some of them are employed as truck drivers, operators of cement block machinery, cement block storage, plant workers, masons and any other capacity for which their talents fit them."

NOV 1 1941

It also states that this is not a new policy with the company and that Negro workers are said to receive all benefits such as group insurance and membership in credit unions on a basis of strict equality.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

N.A.A.C.P. Missed Bet

BAD STRATEGY SIDING WITH CURRIER

NOV 1 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

NOV 1 1941

A TALK with Robert Taylor in Defense Housing during a trip to Washington last week, a news items on the front page of The Courier and a continuation of the hearing on the Currier case in Michigan have all impelled me to write this story about pre-fabricated housing and Negro labor. The whole idea of pre-fabricated houses is a good one, especially for the Negro. It means that with the plans for defense housing, which are being developed in Mr. Taylor's office (and he is one of the few Negroes in Washington who actually sits in a policy forming body), houses can be built for an income group which private and public housing have yet failed to reach.

Mr. Cayton

But it is from the labor point of view that this question interests me most. The Building and Construction Trades Department of the A. F. of L. are not going to give Negroes employment. Now that they think the stabilization pacts with OPM has given them a closed shop, they are even arrogant in their refusal. If anyone was not convinced of this they should be after the response which Randolph got to his eloquent plea at the A. F. of L. conference in Seattle. At the same time the A. F. of L. (in spite of assertions to the contrary) are opposed to pre-fabricated houses as it puts some of their highly paid craft boys out of work.

CIO IS THRE TO MONOPOL

NOV 1 1941

The CIO's United Construction Workers Organizing Committee takes in Negroes and lets them work at any of the building crafts, thus this pre-fabricated housing movement gives the Negro a break both in providing him with decent houses, cheaply, and in giving him some leverage by which to break into the building trades. The A. F. of L. officials are aware of this threat and in the Chicago region are picketing the jobs done by CIO Negroes in the Negro community, on one hand, and refusing to give working permits on defense projects to their own A. F. of L. workers on the other.

Last week I commented upon the Currier case in which the Attorney General's office was investigating the refusal of OPM to accept a low bid because of the stabilization pacts with the A. F. of L. At that time Walter White wrote a letter to the Attorney General stating the facts of Negro discrimination by the A. F. of L. and attempting to in some way (how, was not clear) to introduce the fact of Negro discrimination into the issue.

CURRIER HAS BAD LABOR RECORD

NOV 1 1941

Since then several new facts have come to light which, it seems to me, makes it necessary to revamp our approach. It has been pretty well established in hearings before the Senate defense committee that Currier had a pretty bad labor record and that until now both the A. F. of L. and the CIO have been unable to organize his plants. Indeed, there is evidence that Currier got the CIO union in only when he saw the opportunity to obtain defense work.

In view of this, it seems to me that perhaps Walter White would have done better to address his letter to his real allies, the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, rather than to the Attorney General. The Attorney General will not, of course, interject the racial angle in this already confused and extremely dangerous situation. As to Currier, he is by no means the ally of Negro workers (although it is to their interest to push his case in spite of his faults). I think the NAACP missed a bet by not getting in touch with the union people and allying themselves with them in their fight . . there is no choice between A. F. of L. and CIO in the building trades . . . Negroes can belong to one and have been pushed around for years in the other, so it is not a question of taking sides in a factional labor fight.

I think that this move was bad strategy again in view of the fact that some of the CIO unions have been developing an extensive housing program which may in the future receive government support. Tentative plans have already been drawn up whereby at least 250 families of the United Automobile Workers in Detroit at a monthly cost of approximately $30 including taxes, water, insurance and a novel 20-year personal insurance policy may be attained. R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW has written a pamphlet entiled "Housing For Defense" which states the extent to which that union has gone in developing its housing program.

MUST PLAY GAME OF POWER POLITICS

NOV 1 19

I'm not sniping at anyone, but it seems to me that here are the people we should be working with, not the Attorney General, not Currier, but the unions. Such organization as the NAACP should throw the prestige of their office behind a movement of Negro labor that would be interested in fighting these economic problems—to be their eyes and ears in government circles, to point out dangers and opportunities. We've got a government which is operated by pressure groups and to keep up, we've got to play the game of power politics. On vital questions like this, which means decent housing and a chance for employment for the Negro masses, our allies are the great and powerful new unions—not the big white folks in government jobs who are themselves subject to the push and pull of pressure groups.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Racially-Biased Accounts Of Ford Strike Rapped

APR 9 1941

NEW YORK—(SNS)—A protest against "news which gives the impression that Negro Ford workers form the majority of non-strikers" was lodged with the Associated Press, the United Press and the International News Service Apr. 4 by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP telegram declared this type of news service "is a serious distortion which sharpens feeling against the whole Negro race and may lead to interracial violence."

"The truth is," said the protest wire, "many Negroes have joined the union and are working shoulder to shoulder with their white fellow workers to win the strike."

APR 9 1941

The NAACP protest stated that even if the union had a majority of Ford workers signed up out of the 85,000 total there must be thousands of white workers who have not joined. To feature, in stories and pictures, the Negro non-strikers is "unfair news treatment" the NAACP declared.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Prominent Detroit Negroes Assail Ford for KKK Policy

APR 10 1941

Cross Section of Leading Church, Civic Representatives Issue Blistering Attack on Anti-Negro Activities of Open-Shopper

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, April 9.—A representative cross section of leading Negro citizens here yesterday, in a signed statement, charged that Ford's policy toward labor, especially Negro workers, fits precisely into the policies of the Ku Klux Klan.

The signers, among them State Senator Charles C. Diggs, Louis Martin, editor, many clergymen and prominent persons in other civic positions, asserted they wholeheartedly back the demands of the Ford strikers, led by the United Automobile Workers of America.

The group charged that Ford is carrying on "un-American, undemocratic and subversive" activities in "seeking to pit white labor against black."

APR 10 1941

NEGRO STATEMENT

The full statement follows:

"Detroit is today the scene of what may prove to be the greatest struggle in the history of our country. The strike in the River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company is not alone the concern of the men who were employed there. The matter is one of national importance. That is the way that we who are Negro Americans approach the issues involved.

"For the Negro people the struggle here is of vital significance. We can see that it is not only Negro labor that is affected. We Negro business and professional men, we who are ministers, our Negro youth and Negro housewife has a stake in the decisions to be reached. An examination of the demands of the UAW-CIO is proof of this statement. We present the facts as we see them to you. We have weighed the issues and searched the records.

APR 10 1941

MINORITY RIGHTS

"The seniority right is of prime importance to all workers. It is particularly valuable to a Negro. It means moving up in rate of pay and position. Those who have been on the job longest; who, if fired, could not easily turn to other work; who are usually confined to the hardest work; need seniority rights. Seniority rights strike a blow at racial prejudice and racial persecution. They make for job security.

"The fight for job security is the Negro people's fight.

"A wage increase to Negro workers means much to a Negro community. The markets of the Negro business and professional men is in the Negro worker's pocketbook. Ten thousand Negroes work at Ford. Increase these wages $100 a year, and the Negro business men, church and professional men have a million dollar larger market. Women in the home understand the value of a raise in wages.

"The fight for higher wages concerns the whole Negro community.

APR 10 1941

ENDING THE SPEED-UP

"The speeding up of the conveyor is the road to the scrap heap. Health is broken under the speed-up. Bodies are worn out. The worker is discarded. The family faces destitution. Medical men testify to this truth. The struggle to end the speed-up system strengthens the Negro home.

"The fight against the speed-up safeguards the Negro's future.

"These are but a few of the issues raised by the Ford workers. Their general import is clear. Their interest to the Negro community cannot be questioned.

"Our women have a stake in the settlement of these matters which should be aired. The cost of living is going up daily; rents, food and clothing cost more. Health is a serious factor in a Negro home. The care of children become a more difficult task. Every effort to better the standard of living and to bring the benefit into the Negro home are of a progressive and democratic nature. Negro women are vitally concerned in such matters.

"Our youth is vitally concerned. The percentage of jobless youth is always greater in the Negro community. The pay of the youthful Negro worker is less, generally, and the job opportunities and opportunities for training infinitely less.

APR 10 1941

"Only such a movement as makes for the solidarity of all labor can cure these ills. Only a movement directed against racial hatreds and based upon the principle that to unite is to gain strength. This has been a principle of the CIO as we have seen it operate in steel and packing and with the miners. The significance of this cannot be overlooked.

KLAN POLICIES

"Negro workers in the Ford plant who fought for these conditions we have mentioned were fired. Ford was no respector of persons because of race or color. A survey of the Dearborn Independent is proof of that. The campaign of slander and hatred carried on in this Ford paper against the Jewish people was paralleled by an equally vicious attack upon the Negro people. Little publicity has been given this fact. The Ku Klux Klan has lumped the Negro with the Catholic and Jewish people, but lynching records show that the Negro is the major victim. Can we who are Negro believe that those who attack any minority group will be our friends?

"We believe that what is true for the KKK will be true also in the case of Ford. Jobs secured upon the basis of charity and philanthropy must be paid for through the nose. Only jobs protected by collective bargaining rights, seniority, freedom to select the organization one desires are protected.

APR 10 1941

"No one can deny that Mr. Ford has hired Negroes. Of course, when we consider the rate of unemployment among our people, Mr. Ford has done nothing in excess of democracy. Nor do we believe that a democratic act needs applause. But when we see the use to which Mr. Ford puts his Negro workers, we can only say: 'There was a method in his madness.' We are sceptical of democracy which produces racial conflicts as it operates.

"Mr. Ford is seeking to pit white labor against black. There is nothing more un-American, undemocratic, and subversive than such an act. Chicago, Washington, D. C., Tulsa, Oklahoma, East St. Louis and their race riots provoked and incited after the last war by those who profitted by the racial antagonism in the ranks of labor. Are we to go through that same process now as we prepare 'to defend democ-

"The top leadership of the CIO as opposed to the top leadership of the AFL has come openly out for unity regardless of race, creed, or color. This marks a new stake in the American labor movement. This is democracy on the labor front, in its most elemental expression.

"We have to acknowledge that for Mr. Ford the N.L.R.A., the

Wage and Hour law, the Walsh-Healey Act, the Social Security Act are scraps of paper. The Ford Company stands as the champion of those who defy the law on the economic field.

"We are fearful that if the UAWA - CIO loses a great blow will be struck against the Negro everywhere. We as a people have made gains in the struggle for these laws. If Ford can successfully flout them, all other industrialists can also. Reaction in the South will be immeasurably strengthened by such an event.

"If in the North Negro labor cannot make gains when it has the support of white labor, how much less are the chances for the Southern Negro.

"Both at the last Congress of the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, John L. Lewis pledged the support of the CIO to the struggle of the Negro people. The CIO has kept faith we believe.

"We, therefore, take our stand behind the demands of the Auto Workers. Negroes have nothing permanent to gain through strike-breaking. No one has, the history of the labor struggle is proof of this.

APR 10 194

"We are interested in job security and in securing jobs for Negro workers, but not upon the basis of racial friction.

"The dangers ahead need not be exaggerated to be seen. But we believe that the solidarity of white and Negro labor can and will be maintained.

"We issue this statement hoping that it will help to clarify muddy waters. The fight for democracy is a broad fight reaching into labor and cultural as well as political fields. The Negro must be on the side of democracy. To be elsewhere is fatal."

APR 10 1941

THE SIGNERS

The full list of prominent signers of the statement follows:

Rev. Chas. A. Hill, Pastor Hartford Avenue Batist Church, President Michigan Division, N.N.O.

Senator Chas. C. Diggs.

Coleman Young, Executive Secretary Michigan Division N.N.C.

Wm. L. Sherrill.

Robert Evans, Secretary Detroit Branch NAACP.

C. Lebron Simmons, President Detroit Council N.N.C.

Rev. John Miles.

Attorney Judson B. Powell.

Attorney R. M. Golightly.

Mrs. Harold Bledsoe.

Dr. James Benson.

Frank McDonald.

Dr. Herbert E. Simms.

Hodges Mason, Civil Rights Federation.

Felix Maise, Deputy Sheriff.

Elizabeth Baird, A.K.A.

Louis Martin, Editor, Michigan Chronicle.

Louise Blackman, City Editor, Michigan Chronicle.

Dr. J. B. Goggins.

Dr. Albert B. Gleage.

Pearl J. Gleage, Vice President, Wingert, P.T.A.

Rev. Lee T. Clay, Peace Baptist Church.

John Simmons, President, Bethel Junior League.

Charles Harris, NAACP, President West Side Youth Council.

Francis Green, Secretary Greater Detroit Youth Assembly.

Nellie H. Watts.

Audrey Boulding, President Frederich Douglas Council N.N.C.

Leonard Troutman, President Greater Detroit Youth Assembly.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Ford Move Rapped By White

NAACP Sec'y Makes Plane Trip to Detroit

APR 15 1941

DETROIT, Mich. — (SNS) —Declaring that the use of Negro workers in a hired "goon squad" to break the strike called April 2 at the huge River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company was "dangerous," Walter White, N.A.A.C.P., secretary, issued a statement April 9 deploring the action and calling upon the Negroes in the plant to leave.

The NAACP secretary flew here April 1 when long distance telephone reports to New York seemed to indicate that racial tension had been injected so strongly into the struggle between Ford and the strikers that a riot might be staged.

"The Ford strike," said, Mr. ~~White's statement,~~ "faces the Negro with the toughest decision he has ever had to make in the matter of jobs and his relations with his fellow workers and employers. Widespread discrimination by some employers, even in national defense industries financed by taxation of Negroes as well as whites, has driven the majority of Negro workers to the ragged edge of existence. Henry Ford has not only hired more Negroes than any other Detroit employer but has given some of them the chance to rise above menial ranks which contrasts sharply with Knudsen's General Motors.

APR 15 1941

CLUB OVER HEADS

"The attempt to use Negroes as a club over the heads of those who wish to organize themselves in unions in the Ford plants, however, is a dangerous move in times like these .It may make for increased racial tensions which would hurt the defense program. I regret that a few colored workers, in their desperation for jobs have lent themselves to staying in the River Rouge plant. They are not helping themsleves, the cause of the Negro, nor labor relations generally. Especially when every one knows that the Ford company could evacuate the plant in fifteen minutes if it really wanted the thousand or so white and Negro workers out of there. I again plead with the men in the plant to leave, to remove this source of friction, and to let the issue be peaceably settled by the vote which has been ordered by the NLRB.

APR 15 1941

"Gratitude of Negro workers to Henry Ford for jobs which other plants have denied them is understandable. But I want to remind Negro Ford workers that they cannot afford to rely on the personal kindness of any individual when what the worker wants is 'justice.' Death comes eventually to every one of us. It will some day come to the present heads of the Ford industrial empire. No Ford employee, colored or white, knows what the future heads of Ford may do. Honest industrial democracy in the Ford and other industries of our country offer the only real guaranty of present and future security for workers.

PLAYED SORRY ROLE

"The A. F. of L. has played a sorry role in the strike in its futile attempt to dupe Negro workers who are well awafe of the constitutional clauses, ritualistic practices, and other divices by which a number of A. F. of L. unions maintain 'lily white' unions which shut Negroes out of jobs. The UAW-CIO has conducted itself admirably in trying to remove the color line in this strike. It needs to do much more to wipe out distrust based on sad experiences of the past with union labor which Negroes have had and in teaching white labor that it will never be free as long as black labor can be exploited. If the UAW-CIO wins the right to represent the Ford workers, as now seems inevitable, it has a golden opportunity to demonstrate to Negro workers everywhere in the country that some labor unions are straight on the race question.

APR 15 1941

In view of statements made by the UAW-CIO in this particular strike and in view of the stated policy of the CIO nationally opposing racial discrimination, I am confident it will take advantage of this opportunity."

Immediately upon his arrival in Detroit, Mr White conferred with CIO-UAW officials, newspaper men and the executive committee to the Detroit NAACP branch.

It was arranged for him to speak over loudspeakers placed on a sound-trick which circled the River Rouge plant. He appealed to the men inside, saying:

"Some of you in the plant have suspicions of the sincerity of organized labor. There are numerous instn easctha instances that justify such an attitude, but UAW-CIO has pledged through its chief officials, R. J. Thomas, president; George F. Addies, secretary-treasurer, and Michael Widman, Jr., director of the Ford Organizing committee, that there will be no discrimination, and that all opportunities to work and to hold better paid jobs will be protected."

APR 15 1941

White pointed out that those remaining in the plant were not helping themselves, the Negro group, collective bargaining, or the situation generally.

Mr. White received unequivocal assurances from union heads with whom he had conferences that they would live up to all pledges to protect Negro workers.

In Detroit daily papers and in the Negro press of the city UAW-CIO inserted an advertisement setting forth its official position on the question of the Negro as covered in its constitution and enforced by its contracts. Points are:

"1. Under a CIO-UAW contract, Negro Ford workers will receive the same pay as other workers doing the same work and will share equally in all other benefits provided by such a contract. This is already the case in organized shops.

"2. Negro Ford workers will not lose any privileges or positions that they have enjoyed at the Ford Motor Company. On the contrary, they will enjoy greater privileges, more job security and more promotions on the [illegible] of the seniority system."

Enforcement of the policies is provided in Article two of the union constitution which carries an anti-discriminaton clause on account of "religion, race, creed, color, political affiliation or nationality."

351-1941 MICHIGAN

RACE URGED TO STICK WITH FORD IN HIS FIGHT WITH LABOR UNIONS

FEB 1 1941

FEB 1 1941

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Henry Ford's long fight with labor is coming to a head. So far the Negro worker is playing an important part in this fight and will continue to do so until it is over. Ford has proved himself the most liberal of all major industrialists in respect to Negroes. He has hired more than 10,000 in his plants, permitting them to hold jobs that are closed to them in other companies. Last week at Detroit's Lucy Thurman Y. W. C. A. 300 Negro leaders heard Donald Marshall, Chief of Negro Personnel in the Ford Motor Company reveal many of the opportunities Ford has given Negroes. He urged them to co-operate with Ford in his labor fight. Left to right: Donald Marshall telling 300 race leaders that they will regret the day they turn their backs on Henry Ford. On Marshall's left is James J. Payton, president of Wayne County's Voters League. Center photo is scene of the banquet where Marshall and Willis Ward, ex-Michigan football star, spoke. Right, Willis Ward, assistant chief of personnel, was also one of the main speakers. On Ward's left is John Dancy, Urban League executive.—Photos by Edwards.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Congress Asks Nationwide Support for Unity in Ford Strike

APR 7 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6.—In an emergency mobilization call wired to councils in eleven states today, the National Negro Congress urged its members to organize immediate community support to 70,000 Negro workers and their families who, together with 330,000 white workers, are now engaged in strikes for increased wages.

The Congress call, which went to councils in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, emphasized the role being played by Negro workers in strikes now going on.

Fifteen thousand Negro workers are involved in the United Automobile Workers' strike now going on at the Ford company's huge River Rouge plant. Coleman Young, full-time field organizer of the Negro Congress in this area, is working closely with the Ford Organizing Committee here in giving direct aid to the Negro strikers at the Ford plant.

John P. Davis, national secretary of the Congress, was particularly bitter over reports received by him from Detroit that the Ford Motor Company is carrying on a deliberate campaign of setting Negro workers against white workers by hiring thousands of Negroes from the South as strikebreakers, and that Ford service agents had imported Negro thugs to smash union picket lines with blackjacks, steel hammers and crowbars.

SEEK RACE RIOTS

APR 7 1941

"It is clear that the Ford company is trying to provoke a race riot," he said, "by giving the impression that the strike is between Negro and white workers. Fortunately the good judgment of the union leadership has avoided these consequences so far. And Negro strikers at Ford's have proved themselves too good union men to permit the Ford service agents to get away with their attempt to brand Negroes as scabs."

Ishmael P. Flory, national field organizer of the Congress in the Chicago area, who led the 2,000 Negro strikers in the International Harvester strike recently, is now devoting his time to steel.

Pointing out that these Negro and white strikers are fighting to keep a roof over their heads and bread in their stomachs at a time when the cost of living is soaring, Congress officials indicated that the cost of living to Negro workers had shown marked increases in the last 15-month period. **As examples of this they showed that Negroes at Ford's living in Detroit were paying 10 per cent more for rent, but had received no wage increases. Other costs for food, fuel, clothing also increased during this period, they said. The situation in Detroit is duplicated in every large industrial center in the country, they added.**

"Only through the success of these strikes," the statement said, "will it be possible for us to win our fight to end Jim-Crowism at plants having government contracts," the Congress statement declared.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Negroes Told Not To Act As Strike Breakers For Ford

APR 13 1941

NEW YORK, April 10—In a long distance telephone call to the national office of the NAACP here April 4, Dr. James J. McClendon, president of the Detroit branch of the association, stated that the youth council and the senior branch had hired a sound truck to urge Negroes in Detroit not to be strikebreakers in the strike at the Ford plant.

The sound truck circulated all through the area adjacent to the Ford plant, Dr. McClendon said, and through the Negro residential and business districts.

"Do not fall for that Homer Martin-A. F. of L. stuff," the speakers yelled. They were referring to Martin's proposal, backed by the A. F. of L., that the Ford plant be opened by force, if necessary.

APR 13 1941

The Ford company, it was reported, is sending letters and telegrams to Negro workers asking them to return to work at once. Ford money arranged a mass meeting of Negroes at which they were told to stay out of the union and stick with the company.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

OUT COME OF FORD'S FIGHT WITH GOVERNMENT AND LABOR UNIONS WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON NEGRO'S OPPORTUNITY TO GET EMPLOYMENT IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.

FEB 8 - 1941

AS I SEE IT, if Henry Ford loses in his fight with the labor unions and the government it will mean that Negroes will have fewer opportunities to get employment in defense industries. Negro organizations and leadership should lend every possible aid to Mr. Ford in his efforts to expose the injustices and racketeering labor unions are practicing "within the law."

Negroes in this country are affected most by the vicious practices and un-Americanism of labor unions than any other people. Almost in every section, Negroes are being replaced on jobs and denied the opportunity to work because of union domination.

Let us investigate the hardships and injustices to both employers and minority group employes brought by these laws which the government and the labor unions are forcing Mr. Ford to comply with.

For instance, we take the Wagner Labor Law which guarantees 51 per cent of the employes in any given plant the right to form unions and make contracts with the employer without respect to the wishes or desires of the 49 per cent. In other words, the simple situation is this: If 100 persons are employed in a plant and 51 are white, the whites can come together, form a union and bar 49 Negro workers from membership in their union or participation in their meetings and, can demand their company under a recent Supreme Court ruling to sign what is known as a "closed shop" agreement. Under such agreement the jobs of Negro workers are insecure and the workers are subject to dismissal.

FEB 8 - 1941

When a union demands an employer to dismiss his workers and he refused, a picket line is thrown around his establishment and, when remedy is sought through the courts, the judge rules there is a bona-fide dispute and a picket line is "within the law". This was done very recently at Houston in the case of a cafe owner who refused to comply with the union's request to discharge a Negro worker who was refused membership in the union. The court did not take into consideration the discriminatory practices of that union which prohibited an American citizen the right to work solely on account of color. Nor was any consideration given the fact that in a "true Democracy" every man has a right to work regardless of his union affiliation. The question of the rights of the employer to determine the fitness of a worker for his business was not considered.

Numerous other cases could be recited pointing out the un-Americanism of some labor unions. We mention the right of free speech which the courts hold justifies the picketing of an establishment. On the other hand, if an employer expresses his opinion as to the unfair practices of labor unions, he is charged with interference and coercion and his penalty may be $10,000 and imprisonment, perhaps both, under the law, while on the other hand, a union representative is within his rights to intimidate, coerce, falsify, dam the employer's and his fellow workers reputation and circulate literature against the company "within the law."

AS I SEE IT, Mr. Ford's reputation to workers irrespective of color, and his record of loyalty to his government, justify me to believe the position he has taken in not accepting defense contracts which require him to agree to "obey all federal and state labor laws," is because he knows through his attorneys that some of the laws are unjust, impractical and detrimental to the free flow of commerce and to our democratic way of life. Mr. Ford also knows that some obscure or disgruntled worker might at anytime, go in court and file charges of some trifle event and tie up the plant.

Only a few months ago in Philadelphia, the unions called a strike involving several thousand workers because the company refused to fine a worker on account he had not paid his dues in the labor union.

So far as the argument that Ford can have his day in the courts to test the legality of the labor laws after having signed the contract, this is rather risky because the government can cancel these contracts at a great financial damage to Ford's plant. And to, according to our judicial system, Hitler at the rate he is going could take England and all of Europe while the procedure of a defense industry is halted in court trying to settle a minor labor dispute which could be caused by a Fifth Columnist or some enemy to our government.

Ford employs more than 10,000 Negroes in his plant, most of whom have been trained and schooled in his industries. They do not hold their positions simply because they are colored nor because of any particular love Ford has for the race. They are there because of their ability, skill and instrinsic value as other American workers. Suppose a union, hostile toward Negroes and which has a color bar and discriminatory practices against Negroes working on certain jobs and holding certain positions, would get control of Ford's plant and demand that he discharge Negroes working in key places where such jobs usually go to white workers under union rule, what could Ford do about it? The union is within the law. While the worker's skin may be black, he may be the key to progress of his division in the plant. What protection would Ford have under the law should some of the white workers refuse to work along side Negroes?

If Ford loses his fight and the C. I O. and A F. of L. get control of his unions, it not only lessens the chances of Negroes getting employment in defense industries but in the automobile industries. Other automobile plants including General Motors seldom hire Negroes in any capacity other than as porters, janitors and laborers.

AS I SEE IT, the CIO's fight is the beginning of a mighty industrial revolution which this country cannot afford to stand at this time. And it is my personal opinion that it is the labor rackteers and communists at the bottom of it all. Neither give a tinker's dam about the welfare of labor or National Defense. The racketeers are after the tremendous amount of money that can be collected in dues. The communists are only trying to continue regimentation for the purpose of overthrowing this government.

Let us hope that all true American citizens interested in Democracy give serious study to the Ford situation and voice their opinion so loud until Congressmen at Washington will take action and pass laws curbing abuse of power unscrupulous labor unions now hold in this country.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FORD'S: WHERE OUR LEADERSHIP FAILED

APR 19 1941

Intelligent observers foresaw that the Ford Automobile Company would eventually be organized, just like every other big industry in the United States, and that once it was organized non-union Negroes would have no jobs.

That is why a few far-sighted people urged Ford's Negro workers to throw in their lot with the UAW-CIO as far back as the 1937 organizational drive.

The greatest or loudest opponents of Negroes joining the union were so-called Negro leaders in Detroit who were so shortsighted as to see only the superficial aspects of the situation.

Fortunately, those most concerned, the actual Negro workers, refused to throw themselves across the railroad tracks of social progress.

The organization of Ford's was unquestionably delayed, however, by the constant sabotaging of the unionization effort by shortsighted leadership.

There are far too many Negroes of prominence who by training and preference have been fawning at the feet of Capital for so long that they do not realize that the country stands on the threshold of a new era when Labor will control the land.

APR 19 1941

How foolish it would be for black workers to oppose Labor when Labor is moving rapidly toward the seats of power.

35d
Mich.

35i-1941
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

MICHIGAN

The Great Lesson at Ford's: Negro-White Unity Won

CIO Strike Is Reply to Race-Baiters; Blast Ford 'Myth'

APR 15 1941

By William L. Patterson

DETROIT, April 14.—Great lessons of struggle are coming out of the desperate battle eighty-one thousand white and Negro workers waged here against the feudal lord of River Rouge. But this is one that will have a value exceeded by no other: "Bigotry, racial hatred, the exploitation of every difference of nationality, creed and color to pit white against black and to split the unity of labor has lost its potency." That lesson registers one of the greatest victories already won. Regardless of the final outcome of this battle, the victory over divisions Ford has thrown into the fight to sow the seeds of race riots is a magnificent achievement.

The majority of the Negro workers who were in the River Rouge citadel of hate are satisfied that their future, together with white workers, lies behind the fight for senority rights, higher wages, freedom from spies, and against the necessity to purchase their jobs in order to get and hold them. On the other hand the vast majority of the white workers here now see the Negro worker in terms of a powerful ally.

APR 15 1941

SQUELCH PROVOCATEUR

A Ford provocateur who thought his button, a badge of unionism and brotherhood, would protect him cried out for the lynching of some Negro workers who had been misled into "holding the fort" for Ford. White workers squelched him. The Ford service men, the Klan and those Negro reformists of the ilk of Randolph have received a great setback here. The whole country should recognize this fact. Negro America should rejoice.

Many of the top leaders of the NAACP put out a leaflet in which they followed the "old line," a line which increasing sections of the NAACP members and some leaders disapprove.

"We of the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," it began, "are impartial toward your view of the union in the Ford strike situation.

"Our only purpose in this matter is to avoid race riots and bloodshed."

APR 15 1941

But the old line which flows so logically from Mr. Randolph's "argument" that Negroes must go their way alone won't do here. These workers want the protection of white and black unity; this Negro community wants that protection. Walter White, national secretary of the NAACP, hastened here to repudiate, at least for the moment the old philosophy and the common cause he for long has made with the head of the Pullman Porters Brotherhood. Detroit has jolted the ranks of Negro reformism. Here, impartiality toward the union is only interpreted as partiality toward Ford. The NAACP may be that, but not openly. The National Negro Congress played a leading part in mobilizing the Negro workers and the Negro community.

Security of jobs comes through the honest operation of the seniority right plank in the CIO demands. The Negro workers here are beginning to appreciate that fact. There is no security of job tenure when you hold your job through the "charity" of an economic royalist. When philanthropy gives Negroes jobs it demands strikebreaking as a payment. Seniority rights mean promotion, better wages; they end that vicious "pay for your job, or get out" system Ford has pushed to the limit.

APR 15 1941

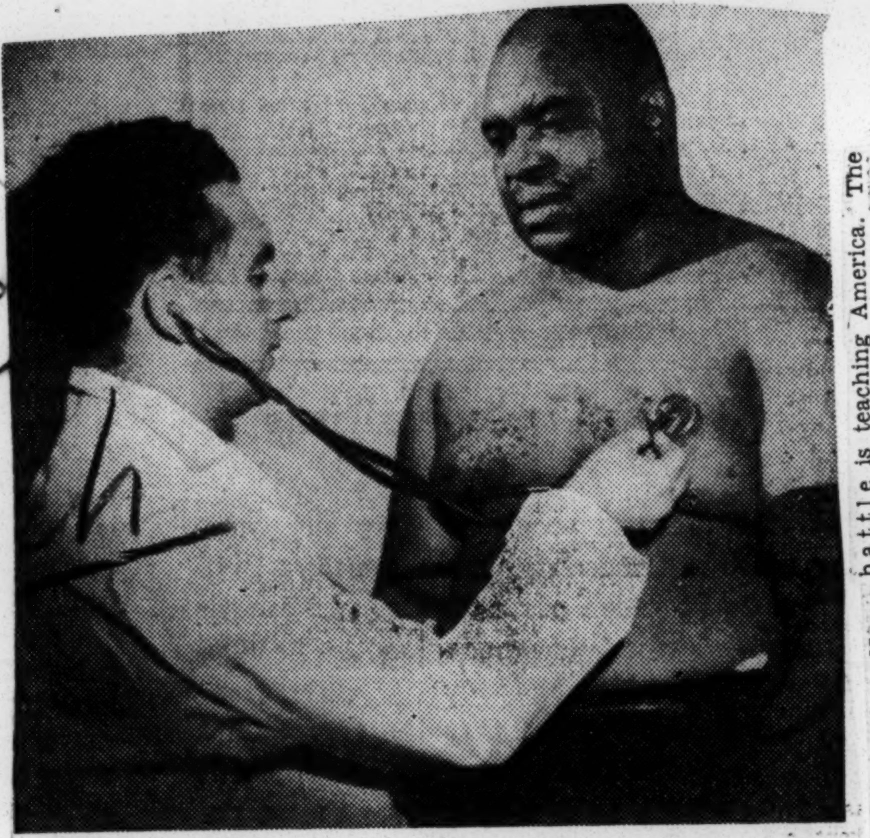
EXPLODE FORD MYTH

The myth of Ford, the "friend of Negro labor had housed itself here. That myth has been evicted. Ford hired Negroes, not nearly so many as reputed, but more than some of the other monopolists because it paid in many ways. There were only 6,200 Negroes in Ford's in 1939 out of 60,000 men. Now perhaps there are 10,000. The sympathy of the Negro community with its top-heavy unemployment rate ran toward the employer who would give its people work of any kind and against the union which the community wrongfully felt would forfeit those jobs. Negro workers fearing the loss of their jobs could be more ruthlessly exploited than whites and the exploitation of Negro workers is traditional with the Fords who control American democracy. These are some of the reasons behind the Ford hiring campaign. But most of all Ford thought he could use Negro workers as scabs. For unorganized Negroes there is merciless exploitation when they work and greater exploitation when they can't work, but always exploitation. Only the union can alleviate that situation. Ford, who hires black men and General Motors that does not hire so many are brothers under the skin.

AFL LEADERS AID FORD

Henry Ford learned something from the steel strike of 1919. White and black workers were successfully pitted against each other in that memorable struggle of labor for a better day. But steel was successful because the top leadership of the AFL never wanted American workers to realize that unity was the only policy. It split the labor movement along the color line. The leadership of the AFL tried to help Ford; it organized the strike breakers. But the CIO has made the Jim Crow policy of Green and Wall and Hutchson a badge of shame.

The CIO is organizing all honest and progressive labor forces in Ford's; 1941 is not 1919. White and black unity will act as a factor unifying the whole trade union movement in America. The Ford fight reveals that fact if only hazily as yet. The most progressive of AFL members and particularly Negro AFL men are red hot over the strike-breaking tactics of the Federation's top leaders.



A Negro Ford Worker being examined by Dr. Morris Raskin, medical consultant of the CIO United Automobile Workers. The same activities which the union affords for the protection of the health of its members, were symbolized on the picket line when Negro and white strikers smashed the Ford citadel of open shopism for the first time in King Henry's history.

All this is a vital force for unity of the Negro people in struggle. Many Negro business, professional and church leaders are beginning to see Negro labor through new eyes. The market of these "upper class" Negroes is the buying power of the Negro worker. He is the dominant economic factor in Negro life. Stand with the Negro worker in his fight for higher wages and you stand to extend your own selling power. Negro business is learning this. It is destroying the old line of thinking that "the best people are the big bosses." The best people are those whose honest efforts increase the consuming power of Negro workers.

A LESSON IN UNITY

APR 15 1941

This is a great lesson for Negro churchmen, buisness men, and professionals who in the past have tailed after the capitalist class and have been often unsympathetic to labor and the Negro worker. In learning this lesson, a far step toward unifying the "race" has been taken. In the unity of the Negro people around the program for better conditions on the job, the Negro comes closer to his true ally the labor movement of America.

Negro women here who have to meet a rising cost of living with a small wage see the union with its demands for a wage raise as a true friend. They have some lingering fears concerning job security their men will have, but they are learning what seniority means.

Negro youth is as a whole pro-union. It sees the "patriots" who own the defense industries laugh in the faces of jobless black boys. It sees the most un-American un-democratic and subversive practices carried on under the cry: "We fight for democarcy." Negro youth sees monopoly capital naked and unashamed, a fascist slave-driver driving to world war for profits and introducing at home as it drives, new forms of persecution for black people.

The Ford fight is a school. White and Negro workers see each other more clearly; Negroes "on top" see labor as a whole in a new perspective and particularly do they see Negro labor as a leading force in the community; monopolists who once regarded the Negro worker as an anti-labor reserve force have their eyes open to the magnificent role the CIO is playing in cementing white and Negro workers around a common program; Negro labor is becoming more conscious of the whys and wherefores of labor organizations. "Struggle," as Frederick Douglass said so profoundly is the father of progressive thought and action.

APR 15 1941

It is necessary that Negro workers be advanced to still more strategic posts in the union and in the shops when they are finally organized. It is necessary that Negro union men take greater responsibilities in political and other civic matters. It is necesary that white trade unionists get to know all aspects of a Negro ghetto for, as the union comes, the segregation of any and all Americans must go. These are some of the few lessons the Ford battle is teaching America. The fight at River Rouge is the concern of every Negro in this country and the union is going to win.

The conscious element among the Negro people has the responsibility to present the Ford struggle in terms of national importance. It is not a Detroit mater alone. It is part and parcel of the whole Negro

351-1941
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

MICHIGAN

The Great Lesson at Ford's: Negro-White Unity Won

CIO Strike Is Reply to Race-Baiters; Blast Ford 'Myth'

APR 15 1941

By William L. Patterson

DETROIT, April 14.—Great lessons of struggle are coming out of the desperate battle eighty-one thousand white and Negro workers waged here against the feudal lord of River Rouge. But this is one that will have a value exceeded by no other: "Bigotry, racial hatred, the exploitation of every difference of nationality, creed and color to pit white against black and to split the unity of labor has lost its potency." That lesson registers one of the greatest victories already won. Regardless of the final outcome of this battle, the victory over divisions Ford has thrown into the fight to sow the seeds of race riots is a magnificent achievement.

The majority of the Negro workers who were in the River Rouge citadel of hate are satisfied that their future, together with white workers, lies behind the fight for senority rights, higher wages, freedom from spies, and against the necessity to purchase their jobs in order to get and hold them. On the other hand the vast majority of the white workers here now see the Negro worker in terms of a powerful ally.

APR 15 1941

SQUELCH PROVOCATEUR

A Ford provocateur who thought his button, a badge of unionism and brotherhood, would protect him cried out for the lynching of some Negro workers who had been misled into "holding the fort" for Ford. White workers squelched him. The Ford service men, the Klan and those Negro reformists of the ilk of Randolph have received a great setback here. The whole country should recognize this fact. Negro America should rejoice.

Many of the top leaders of the NAACP put out a leaflet in which they followed the "old line," a line which increasing sections of the NAACP members and some leaders disapprove.

"We of the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," it began, "are impartial toward your view of the union in the Ford strike situation.

"Our only purpose in this matter is to avoid race riots and bloodshed."

APR 15 1941

But the old line which flows so logically from Mr. Randolph's "argument" that Negroes must go their way alone won't do here. These workers want the protection of white and black unity; this Negro community wants that protection. Walter White, national secretary of the NAACP, hastened here to repudiate, at least for the moment the old philosophy and the common cause he for long has made with the head of the Pullman Porters Brotherhood. Detroit has jolted the ranks of Negro reformism. Here, impartiality toward the union is only interpreted as partiality toward Ford. The NAACP may be that, but not openly. The National Negro Congress played a leading part in mobilizing the Negro workers and the Negro community.

Security of jobs comes through the honest operation of the seniority right plank in the CIO demands. The Negro workers here are beginning to appreciate that fact. There is no security of job tenure when you hold your job through the "charity" of an economic royalist. When philanthropy gives Negroes jobs it demands strikebreaking as a payment. Seniority rights mean promotion, better wages; they end that vicious "pay for your job, or get out" system Ford has pushed to the limit.

APR 15 1941

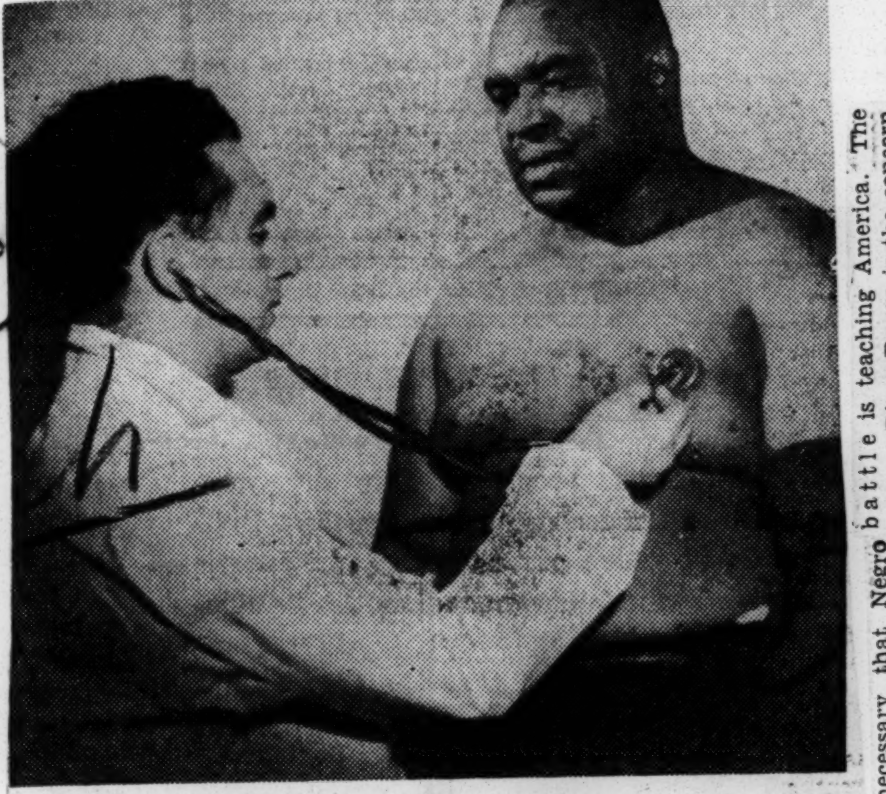
EXPLODE FORD MYTH

The myth of Ford, the "friend of Negro labor had housed itself here. That myth has been evicted. Ford hired Negroes, not nearly so many as reputed, but more than some of the other monopolists because it paid in many ways. There were only 6,200 Negroes in Ford's in 1939 out of 60,000 men. Now perhaps there are 10,000. The sympathy of the Negro community with its top-heavy unemployment rate ran toward the employer who would give its people work of any kind and against the union which the community wrongfully felt would forfeit those jobs. Negro workers fearing the loss of their jobs could be more ruthlessly exploited than whites and the exploitation of Negro workers is traditional with the Fords who control American democracy. These are some of the reasons behind the Ford hiring campaign. But most of all Ford thought he could use Negro workers as scabs. For unorganized Negroes there is merciless exploitation when they work and greater exploitation when they can't work, but always exploitation. Only the union can alleviate that situation. Ford, who hires black men and General Motors that does not hire so many are brothers under the skin.

AFL LEADERS AID FORD

Henry Ford learned something from the steel strike of 1919. White and black workers were successfully pitted against each other in that memorable struggle of labor for a better day. But steel was successful because the top leadership of the AFL never wanted American workers to realize that unity was the only policy. It split the labor movement along the color line. The leadership of the AFL tried to help Ford; it organized the strike breakers. But the CIO has made the Jim Crow policy of Green and Wall and Hutchson a badge of shame.

The CIO is organizing all honest and progressive labor forces in Ford's; 1941 is not 1919. White and black unity will act as a factor unifying the whole trade union movement in America. The Ford fight reveals that fact if only hazily as yet. The most progressive of AFL members and particularly Negro AFL men are red hot over the strike-breaking tactics of the Federation's top leaders.



A Negro Ford Worker being examined by Dr. Morris Raskin, medical consultant of the CIO United Automobile Workers. The same activities which the union affords for the protection of the health of its members, were symbolized on the picket line when Negro and white strikers smashed the Ford citadel of open shopism for the first time in King Henry's history.

All this is a vital force for unity of the Negro people in struggle. Many Negro business, professional and church leaders are beginning to see Negro labor through new eyes. The market of these "upper class" Negroes is the buying power of the Negro worker. He is the dominant economic factor in Negro life. Stand with the Negro worker in his fight for higher wages and you stand to extend your own selling power. Negro business is learning this. It is destroying the old line of thinking that "the best people are the big bosses." The best people are those whose honest efforts increase the consuming power of Negro workers.

APR 15 1941

A LESSON IN UNITY

This is a great lesson for Negro churchmen, buisness men, and professionals who in the past have tailed after the capitalist class and have been often unsympathetic to labor and the Negro worker. In learning this lesson, a far step toward unifying the "race" has been taken. In the unity of the Negro people around the program for better conditions on the job, the Negro comes closer to his true ally the labor movement of America.

Negro women here who have to meet a rising cost of living with a small wage see the union with its demands for a wage raise as a true friend. They have some lingering fears concerning job security their men will have, but they are learning what seniority means.

Negro youth is as a whole prounion. It sees the "patriots" who own the defense industries laugh in the faces of jobless black boys. It sees the most un-American un-democratic and subversive practices carried on under the cry: "We fight for democarcy." Negro youth sees monopoly capital naked and unashamed, a fascist slave-driver driving to world war for profits and introducing at home as it drives, new forms of persecution for black people.

The Ford fight is a school. White and Negro workers see each other more clearly; Negroes "on top" see labor as a whole in a new perspective and particularly do they see Negro labor as a leading force in the community; monopolists who once regarded the Negro worker as an anti-labor reserve force have their eyes open to the magnificent role the CIO is playing in cementing white and Negro workers around a common program; Negro labor is becoming more conscious of the whys and wherefores of labor organizations. "Struggle," as Frederick Douglass said so profoundly is the father of progressive thought and action.

APR 15 1941

It is necessary that Negro workers be advanced to still more strategic posts in the union and in the shops when they are finally organized. It is necessary that Negro union men take greater responsibilities in political and other civic matters. It is necesary that white trade unionists get to know all aspects of a Negro ghetto for, as the union comes, the segregation of any and all Americans must go. These are some of the few lessons the Ford battle is teaching America. The fight at River Rouge is the concern of every Negro in this country and the union is going to win.

The conscious element among the Negro people has the responsibility to present the Ford struggle in terms of national importance. It is not a Detroit mater alone. It is part and parcel of the whole Negro

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ford-Union Strike Aired; Marshall-Patterson Talk

APR 19 1941

Personnel Man Denies Ford Raised Race Issue—Hits So-Called Race Leadership. CIO Aids Negro Workers, Claimed.

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS

DETROIT, April 17.—The strike at the Ford Motor plant has ended, and the 85,000 workers are being returned to their jobs. Who won the strike? That is a question which will be debated for the next month or more until a National Labor Relations Board election announces the verdict of the Ford employees.

It will be remembered that the National Labor Relations Board is scheduled to hold an election a month hence among the Ford employees to determine whether the UAW-CIO or the A. F. of L., or neither, might win the long-sought privilege for the sole bargaining rights within the Ford plant.

Under the Wagoner Act, the union winning majority of the votes will be granted absolute bargaining rights.

THREE-POINT LABOR ARMISTICE

APR 19 1941

It, was the UAW-CIO which called the strike and forced the Ford Motor Company to close its plant for the first time in its history, and the strike was not ended until representatives of this organization were brought together with officials of the Ford Motor Company by Michigan's Governor Murray Van Wagoner and Labor Conciliator, James F. Dewey, when a three-point agreement was reached. The points are:

1. The company will co-operate in every way to bring about a speedy plant election under jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board.

2. Five of the eight employees, whose discharge a week ago, Tuesday, precipitated the strike, will be returned to work and the status of the other three will be arbitrated.

APR 19 1941

9. A special grievance committee, to operate pending the outcome of the election, will be headed by Governor Van Wagoner and Federal Conciliator James F. Dewey, and will include two members of the union and two representatives of the plant.

The Ford Motor Company insisted that the Nation Labor Relations Board should not proceed Monday with scheduled hearings on union complaints of discrimination, and the governor finally persuaded the union representatives and the NLRB to agree.

FORD OFFICIAL GIVES VIEWS

APR 19 1941

When the vote of the employees determines whether the CIO or the A. F. of L., or neither, will have the bargaining rights in the plant, then and only then, will the strike be definitely ended. Donald Marshall, head of Negro personnel at the Ford Motor Company, has given us a statement which reflects his views of the strike, and William L. Patterson, of Chicago and perhaps foremost Negro organizer for the CIO, who has been here on the scene throughout the strike, has also given us a statement of his views. Both Mr. Marshall and Mr. Patterson, along with thousands of others, have congratulated The Courier for its impartial presentation of these issues. Mr. Marshall says:

"While none of us are proud of this strike, it is still a fact that our forefathers were sold into slavery on the coasts of Africa because people of our own race went into the interior and captured and sold black men to white slave traders for handsfull of glass beads.

"The same is true of the various doctors, ministers, dentists, and other near-professional men of the race who are ranting over the radio, riding in union sound cars to exhort the Negroes to follow them when it is perfectly obvious that not one of them knew what he was talking about. They try to pass themselves off as representatives of the race. They are not. The two Negroes we have in Lansing are representatives of the CIO. The heads of the N. A. A. C. P., both nationally and locally, have made deals with the CIO and are not representing the Negro race.

APR 19 1941

CITES UNION PREJUDICES

"Are we still selling our blood-brothers for glass beads? For further testimony concerning the unions' tender feelings toward the Negro worker, please consult the numerous pictures in the daily press showing the would-be "brothers" beating black men whose only offense was that they wanted to go to work to support themselves and families.

"The union crowd is at present trying very hard to blame the Ford Motor Company for raising a race issue.

"In spite of the pious declaration of the CIO's constitution, the truth of the matter is that some of the union's shop-committees have already made their race prejudice known by objecting collectively to the presence of Negro workmen in certain departments. This is an angle of 'collective bargaining' that Negro union members overlook. All of the rules and by-laws one can write will not change the attitude of the white worker who has always made it difficult for the Negro to get a job because 'Brother' refused to work beside a Negro.

"They tell us that they will see that the Negro worker will get the same pay for the same work.

HITS SO-CALLED LEADERS

"That is and always has been the policy of the Ford Motor Company. The union must have some other employer in mind when they speak of race discrimination in wage rates.

APR 19 1941

"Whether they receive any glass beads or not I cannot state under oath, but it might prove interesting, to know who is paying the hotel bill at a big hotel downtown for a certain individual who is making his living largely off of the dues paid by working men all over the U.S.

"It would also be interesting to know how campaign expenses for certain individuals are paid and then let the worker decide who they are compelled to speak for and just how much weight there is to what they say.

"What puzzles me is the frantic effort being made by the CIO to put its arm around the Negro worker at Ford's, calling him 'Brother' when he has never considered him as a brother before. We have never been wanted as neighbors, or fellow church members, or fellow fraternal society members or even as fellow citizens except at election time. Why this sudden infatuation for us?

"If the claims of the CIO regarding membership in the Rouge plant are true, why are they spending such large sums in newspapers advertising trying to get the Negro to join them They claim a membership of 90 per cent of the total employment and at least 50 per cent of the Negroes.

"What has influenced this national Negro leader to come to Detroit to speak in favor of the unionization of the Negro worker when just a few short months ago he wrote an article for a national publication that was an expose of what happens to the Negro workman that places himself at the unions' tender mercies.

"They promise us promotion by seniority. This is a nice promise, but will the 'Brothers' show us where they have practiced it in the industrial plants which they already control and have controlled for several years? There is an automobile plant at Wyoming and McGraw avenues that is 100 per cent union around which I have never seen a black man working in any capacity.

"There is also the vast Fisher Body plant at Fort street and West End avenues, and although I passed it every day for several years I never saw a black working man of any description. This plant is another beautiful example of union 'Brothers' that are so anxious to help the Negro.

PATTERSON ANSWERS FOR UNION

APR 19 1941

"There are many others, too numerous to mention, but I cite these as glaring examples.

"It is high time that the Negro group in these United States had a general house-cleaning, and that the "glass bead" type of Negro "leader" be notified in no uncertain terms that he is not the Negroes' leader, and we are eternally tired of being sold."

William L. Patterson, national organizer, UAW-CIO, declares that:

"Ford has used the Negro merely as a convenient tool, but his policies have been inconsistent. Had he been the friend of Negroes, he would have carried on a struggle against racial prejudices which are reflected so strongly in his plant. During the period from 1919, 1920 and 1921, and even later, the Dearborn Independent, the mouthpiece of the Ford interests, carried on a consistent campaign against Negroes generally. Its attack against the anti-lynch bill was as vicious as that of Senator Bilbo of Mississippi and George of Georgia. It openly supported the Ku Klux Klan, contending that there was nothing injurious to Negroes in the klan's attitude, but that the klan assumed a position similar to that of Free Masonry in our country which refused to accept Negroes in its ranks. Furthermore, Negroes do not and cannot live in Dearborn, and Henry Ford alone is responsible for the policies of Dearborn.

FORD NO FRIEND OF THE NEGRO

APR 19 1941

"Ford thought he learned a lesson from the great steel strike of 1919. He saw the steel magnates break that strike with imported Negro labor. He felt that if he had a reserve of Negroes in his plant in time of labor strife this reserve might well be used against the white workers to split the labor group, but the steel strike was broken through the betrayal of the top leaders of the American Federation of Labor which never sought organize labor.

"The CIO is organizing the Ford plant. Henry Ford did not take this changing condition into consideration. He is really no friend of the Negro. A job held on the basis of charity has to be paid for by accepting the dictates of the man who gives the charity. A job won in struggle and held through the united effort and will of labor is a job which can be welcomed and honored. The Negro worker wants jobs but not at the expense of labor strife."

35i-1941

MISSISSIPPI

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

HOSPITAL WAITRESSES WALK OUT ON STRIKE

APR 12 1941

But Trouble Ended In Less Than 30 Minutes

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., April 11.—The dinner bell rang out at the State Hospital at nearby Whitfield at noon Friday, but the meal wasn't on the tables. The negro waitresses had gone on strike.

As a result of the strike, which was short-lived, approximately 300 staff members and employes of the hospital were delayed 30 minutes in obtaining their lunch.

Dr. C. M. Speck, superintendent, said the strike resulted from bickerings by the 10 waitresses over a new order that has been given them by a superior. He said the walkout was "well organized," as the waitresses quit their posts as the meal was ready to be served.

Assuming charge of the situation, Dr. Speck said he ordered the strikers to immediately return to work or lose their jobs. They went back to work.

APR 12 1941

"They had been accustomed in the past to serving tables in any part of the dining hall," Dr. Speck explained. "Under the change, they had been assigned to specific tables. They disliked that and refused to do their work."

Dr. Speck said he was investigating the incident before determining what action would be taken.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE NEGROES CAUSES RIOT

More Than 200 Driven From Louisville, Miss., Streets, Meeting Is Prevented

Special to The Commercial Appeal

LOUISVILLE, Miss., Sept. 3.—A negro is in serious condition, a white man is suffering from a gunshot wound in the leg and several other persons are nursing less serious injuries Wednesday night as the aftermath of a riot Tuesday night when an attempt was made to organize employes of the D. L. Fair Lumber Co. here.

SEP 4 1941

Emmett Pendergrast, employe of the Southern Natural Gas Co., was shot in the leg when a group of some 300 of the town's leading business and professional men dispersed a group of more than 200 negroes who were attempting to enter the courthouse for an organization meeting.

Driven From Streets

The negro, named Brown, was cut and shot but is expected to live. He is said not to have been in the group of Fair Company employes but was injured when the white men chased all negroes found on the streets into hiding.

Sheriff W. B. Holman could not be reached Wednesday night but members of his family reported he knew nothing of the disturbance.

According to information here J. C. Barrett, A. F. of L. organizer of Birmingham, held an open meeting at the courthouse the night of Aug. 25. The meeting was attended by about 300 men, about 75 per cent being negroes.

No One Will Talk

Tuesday night's meeting was to have been held at 8 o'clock. Although Barrett was not seen during the fighting he didn't check out of the hotel here until Wednesday morning. He left no forwarding address.

SEP 4 1941

After the crodw, which had formed a solid group in front of the courthouse entrance, blocked efforts of the negroes to get inside, it was reported that angry words were quickly followed by fist fighting.

Although the entire town was thrown into an uproar Tuesday night, citizens refused to talk about the affair Wednesday.

Barrett left Bruce, Miss., hurriedly last Friday when an attempt to organize employes of the E. L. Bruce Co. lumber mill there was met with an invitation from a group of men to leave town.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Two Hurt as Whites Fight Negroes Who Would Join Union

SEP 12 1941

Business and Professional Men Drive Negroes from Street to Prevent Their Attending Nnion Meeting in Miss.

LOUISVILLE, Miss. — (ANP).— Negroes will not be unionized in this prejudiced little town if leading white citizens can help it.

A Negro and a white man are in serious condition and several others are nursing bruises as the result Tuesday night of a race riot in which an armed mob of 300 white business and professional men chased from the streets 200 Negroes who were attempting to enter the courthouse for an A. F. of L. union organization meeting.

The seriously wounded men were Emmett Pendergast, white, an employe of the Southern Natural Gas company, shot in the leg, and a man named Brown, shot and cut. The latter was not among those seeking to form the union but happened to be on the street when the mob decided to chase into hiding all Negroes found on local thoroughfares.

Sheriff W. B. Holman could not be reached but members of his family said he "knew nothing" of the riot.

SEP 12 1941

The trouble began with the arrival here from Birmingham of J. C. Barrett, white, A. F. of L. organizer, bent on unionizing employes of the D. L. Fair Lumber company here. On the night of August 25 he held an open meeting in the courthouse attended by about 300 men, of whom around 225 were colored.

After the initial meeting, an organization meeting was scheduled for Tuesday night at the courthouse. No secret was made of the purpose. But when the hour approached, a mob formed around the entrance and refused to allow anybody to go inside. When the number of Nergoes increased, arguments developed and were quickly followed by fist fights.

The armed mob then decided not only to refuse the workers admittance but to chase them off the streets. The entire town was thrown into an uproar. Next day, however, citizens refused to discuss the affair.

Barrett was not seen during the fighting. However, he did not check out of his hotel until the following morning. He left no forwarding address.

It was also learned that Barrett left Bruce, Miss., hurriedly last Friday when an attempt to organize employes of the E. L. Bruce company, lumber mill there, was met with an invitation from a group of men to leave town.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Kin of Bilbo Faces Lawsuit

DEC 27 1941

Accused of Assaulting Representatives Of Garment Workers

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — State Representative Claude Bilbo, relative of Theodore (The Man) Bilbo, race hating U. S. Senator from this State, faced possible legal difficulties here this week following swearing out of warrants against him and a group of Jackson County woolen mills workers by representatives of the ILGWU on charges of assault.

Claude Bilbo, personnel director of the mills, is accused of leading the workers in an unprovoked assault on union organizers on December 11, while the latter were peaceably distributing leaflets outside the mill. Several of the union organizers sustained injuries serious enough to warrant hospital treatment.

DEC 27 1941

TWO HURT AS WHITES BLOCK MEETING TO ORGANIZE WORKERS

SEP 13 1941

LOUISVILLE, Miss., Sept. 11—(ANP)—Negroes will not be unionized in this prejudiced little town if leading white citizens can help it. A Negro and a white man are in serious condition and several others are nursing bruises as the result Tuesday night of a race riot in which an armed mob of 300 white business and professional men chased from the streets 200 Negroes who were attempting to enter the courthouse for an AFL union organization meeting.

The seriously wounded men were Emmett Pendergast, white, an employe of the Southern Natural Gas company, shot in the leg, and a man named Brown, shot and cut. The latter was not among those seeking to form the union but happened to be on the street when the mob decided to chase into hiding all Negroes found on local thoroughfares.

Sheriff W. B. Holman could not be reached but members of his family said he "knew nothing" of the riot.

SEP 13 1941

The trouble began with the arrival here from Birmingham of J. C. Barrett, white, AFL organizer, bent on unionizing employes of the D. L. Fair Lumber company here. On the night of August 25 he held an opening meeting in the courthouse attended by about 300 men, of whom around 225 were colored.

After the initial meeting, an organization meeting was scheduled for Tuesday night at the courthouse. No secret was made of the purpose. But when the hour approached, a mob formed around the entrance and refused to allow anybody to go inside. When the number of Negroes increased, arguments developed and were quickly followed by fist fights.

The armed mob then decided not only to refuse the workers admittance but to chase them off the streets. The entire town was thrown into an uproar. Next day, however, citizens refused to discuss the affair.

FORCED TO FLEE

Barrett was not seen during the fighting. However, he did not check out of his hotel until the following morning. He left no forwarding address.

It was also learned that Barrett left Bruce, Miss., hurriedly last Friday when an attempt to organize employes of the E. L. Bruce Company lumber mill there was met with an invitation from a group of men to leave town.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Two Hurt As White Mob Of Business Men Drive 200 Negroes From Street

Were Attempting to Enter Courthouse to Attend A. F. of L. Meeting

SEP 13 1941

Negro And White Man Seriously Hurt

LOUISVILLE, Miss.—(ANP)—Negroes will not be unionized in this prejudiced little town if leading white citizens can help it.

A Negro and a white man are in serious condition and several others are nursing bruises as the result Tuesday of a race riot in which an armed mob of 300 white business and professional men chased from the streets 200 Negroes who were attempting to enter the courthouse for an A. F. of L. union organization meeting.

The seriously wounded men were Emmett Pendergast, white, an employee of the Southern Natural Gas company, shot in the leg, and a man named Brown, shot and cut. The latter was not among those seeking to form the union but happened to be on the street when the mob decided to chase into hiding all Negroes found on local thoroughfares.

SEP 13 1941

Sheriff W. B. Holman could not be reached but members of his family said he "knew nothing" of the riot.

The trouble began with the arrival here from Birmingham of J. C. Barrett, white, A. F. of L. organizer, bent on unionizing employees of the D. L. Fair Lumber company here. On the night of Aug. 25 he held an open meeting in the courthouse attended by about 300 men, of whom 225 were colored.

After the initial meeting, an organization meeting was scheduled for Tuesday night at the courthouse. No secret was made of the purpose. But when the hour approached, a mob formed around the entrance and refused to allow anybody to go inside. When the number of Nergoes increased, arguments developed and were quickly followed by fist fights.

The armed mob then decided not only to refuse the workers admittance but to chase them off the streets. The entire town was thrown into an uproar. Next day, however, citizens refused to discuss the affair.

Barrett was not seen during the fighting. However, he did not check out of his hotel until the following morning. He left no forwarding address.

It was also learned that Barrett left Bruce, Miss., hurriedly last Friday when an attempt to organize employees of the E. L. Bruce Co. lumber mill there was met with an invitation from a group of men to leave town.

35i-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Molders In St. Louis Shop Need a Union

JAN 6 1941

St. Louis, Mo.

Workers' Correspondence Dept.:

I've been an iron molder for 35 years and in the union for 32 years and I can say that my experience here in St. Louis, the gateway of the South, is the worst I have ever experienced, especially the way the Negroes are treated.

In this particular shop, 75 per cent are unskilled workers. The Negroes here do not belong to the union. A good many of them are illiterate and have been treated so bad, that they don't have any faith in their white brothers. Although the iron molders' union is an industrial organization, there are a good many shops that refuse to hire Negroes. The iron molders is one of the oldest crafts, and we still have many brothers who cannot forget their schooling of craft unionism, and they cannot see the necessity of industrialization. The Negroes in the shop do all the hard work. For instance, the Negro gets in to work an hour earlier than the molders, shaling out the casting and getting the sand ready for the molders. The dust is so thick at times you cannot see your way through the shop. We have no dressing or wash rooms.

JAN 6 1941

"THE AMERICAN WAY"

Most people think when you speak of a foundry, it is plenty hot, but such is not the case. It is only hot when we are pouring off heat. During these cold damp days the boss tells us to keep on working all the time so that we could keep plenty warm — but when the summer comes we just can't stand this awful heat. We don't have a drinking fountain, but a barrel of water with a chunk of ice to keep it cold and we have to drink from that. This water is never sterilized. The sanitary conditions here are so bad that it's hard to believe this is the twentieth century. The Negroes here are treated twice as bad as the whites and when they complain, the boss tells them to shut up and not to talk back to him.

The white molders here get one dollar an hour and forty hours a week—but the Negro works forty-five hours a week and gets fifty cents an hour. The union has been trying to organize this shop. When the business agent approached the boss to organize the shop this was the answer he received: "I will recognize the white molders, but leave my 'niggers' alone." And so this is the American way.

—A MOLDER.

MISSOURI

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

COLORED SKILLED WORKMEN JOIN ORGANIZED LABOR FOR FIRST TIME IN KANSAS CITY

JAN 10 1941

Union Barrier Against Negroes Broken; Way Open for Men in Other Skilled Trades to Organize

Negroes were admitted into a trade union of skilled workmen for the first time in the history of this city Sunday afternoon, January 5, when 28 Negro carpenters were organized into a local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

The first major barrier toward getting national defense jobs at Fort Riley, Kas., and other centers in this area was broken down when carpenters from both Kansas Cities, Topeka and Leavenworth were initiated into the union by Larry S. Braten, international representative of the Carpenters' union. The initiation and installation of officers was held at Slaughter's hall in Kansas City, Kas.

Whitaker Is President

Mr. Braten was assisted in the organization by J. O. Mack, business agent of the Carpenters district council, 3114 the Paseo.

Mr. Braten presented the charter of organization to F. L. Whitaker, temporary president of the local union.

The officers of the local installed Sunday afternoon were: F. L. Whitaker, president; Squire Williams, vice president; Harold Robbins, recording secretary; Archie Gregg Jr., financial secretary; Oscar Hall, treasurer and Ira Hightower, conductor.

The three trustees are: Johh L Mason, elected for 30 months; Harold Robbins, 18 months; and Carlos A. Grant, six months.

Other men taken into the union on Sunday were: Leon Hall, W. O Payton and M. W. Ransom of Topeka, Kas.; A. W. Wiggenton and Charles McLemore of Leavenworth; Oscar Hall, S. M. McDuffie, W. E. Robbins, Ed Thomas, Ross N. Ward, H. H. Harrell, Ernest Etire, J. H. Hodge, D. W. McClellan, B T. Sexton, N. E. Jackson, J. W. Flagg, George Ruffin, H. W. Haynes, Roy Howard M. W. Littlejohn and John Ivory.

JAN 10 1941

Charter Fee Paid

The men joined the union upon payment of a $10 initiation fee. The regular $80 initiation fee of the Kansas City district council was reduced to $10 for charter members. After the charter was presented Sunday, the $10 fee no longer is in effect.

The fee for men who join the union after Sunday and work in the area of the local district council will be $80 initiation fee. A special fee of $40 will be charged men who go to work in the Fort Riley and Camp Funston areas.

The organization of the union is an outgrowth of efforts made by the Colored Builders Association of Kansas to become unionized. Negro building tradesmen of Kansas City, Kas., organized two years ago for the purpose of securing HOLC work through united effort. They were successful.

When Negro skilled tradesmen were barred from national defense jobs because they were not members of unions, the Colored Builders Association organized community support in both Kansas Cities and finally succeeded in getting the ear of Larry S. Braten, international representative of the Carpenters Union, who immediately set about to organize the Negro carpenters into a local union. Other skilled workmen are expected to be organized soon, the painters already having made negotiations with the Painters union.

The Negro carpenters union will have the same voice in the Carpenters' district council as the seven other local unions in the Kansas City area.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PRESENT WAGE CALLED SLAVE RATESTANDARD

Southern States Council Proposes New Scale At Convention

HARVIELL, Mo. — Delegates from 26 U.C.A.P.A.W.A.-C.I.O. locals representing 30,000 sharecroppers, wage laborers and tenant farmers in the South met at the Sharecroppers camp here Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15, for the third annual convention of the Southern States Cotton council.

JUN 28 1941

Three hundred delegates raised the demand of 10 per cent of the cotton market price for picking cotton and the full market price for the sharecroppers' share of cotton sold.

They pointed out that virtual peonage existed in the South by reason of slavery wages of 60 cents and one dollar a day, and payment of this in brozine money and doodlum books, redeemable only at the boss' commissary.

Leaders stated, "the only time anything was done about our conditions in the South was when we had a demonstration on Highway 61. If this is the only way we can get attention and assistance, there will be more demonstrations, until such time as we can enjoy the so-called American standard of living and see some of the democracy that we hear talked about."

Resolutions were adopted calling for coverage of agricultural workers under the Wage-Hour law, complete coverage under the Social Security laws, an end to discrimination against Negroes in FSA, home economics projects, NYA, WPA, school lunch programs, and state expenditure for education.

Expansion of rural rehabilitation projects was demanded through increased appropriations under the Jones-Bankhead act. A resolution was adopted asking for medical service for the low income farm farm groups.

The delegates demanded that their constitutional right to the vote be upheld and that the poll tax be abolished in the South. They condemned the use of U.S. government troops as strike breakers, and called upon their so-called representatives in Congress to take no action to abridge the democratic right of workers to strike.

A program for intensified work among the youth was adopted, with endorsement of the Southern Negro Youth Congress and the League of Young Southerners, and calling for organization of the young people in cooperation with the union.

Speakers and officers at the convention included Harold J. Lane, secretary-treasurer of the UCAPAWA; Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, vice president of UCAPAWA; Harry Koger, president of the Southern States Cotton council, and Mr. Bankson of the Farm Security administration.

JUN 28 1941

The program adopted for the coming year was dedicated to Elinor Henderson, wife of International UCAPAWA President Donald Henderson, whose recent death ended a long period of devoted work among agricultural workers.

351-1941

MISSOURI

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Molders In St. Louis Shop Need a Union

JAN 6 1941

St. Louis, Mo.

Workers' Correspondence Dept.:

I've been an iron molder for 35 years and in the union for 32 years and I can say that my experience here in St. Louis, the gateway of the South, is the worst I have ever experienced, especially the way the Negroes are treated.

In this particular shop, 75 per cent are unskilled workers. The Negroes here do not belong to the union. A good many of them are illiterate and have been treated so bad, that they don't have any faith in their white brothers. Although the iron molders' union is an industrial organization, there are a good many shops that refuse to hire Negroes. The iron molders is one of the oldest crafts, and we still have many brothers who cannot forget their schooling of craft unionism, and they cannot see the necessity of industrialization. The Negroes in the shop do all the hard work. For instance, the Negro gets in to work an hour earlier than the molders, shaling out the casting and getting the sand ready for the molders. The dust is so thick at times you cannot see your way through the shop. We have no dressing or wash room.

JAN 6 1941

"THE AMERICAN WAY"

Most people think when you speak of a foundry, it is plenty hot, but such is not the case. It is only hot when we are pouring off heat. During these cold damp days the boss tells us to keep on working all the time so that we could keep plenty warm — but when the summer comes we just can't stand this awful heat. We don't have a drinking fountain, but a barrel of water with a chunk of ice to keep it cold and we have to drink from that. This water is never sterilized. The sanitary conditions here are so bad that it's hard to believe this is the twentieth century. The Negroes here are treated twice as bad as the whites and when they complain, the boss tells them to shut up and not to talk back to him.

The white molders here get one dollar an hour and forty hours a week—but the Negro works forty-five hours a week and gets fifty cents an hour. The union has been trying to organize this shop. When the business agent approached the boss to organize the shop this was the answer he received: "I will recognize the white molders, but leave my 'niggers' alone." And so this is the American way.

—A MOLDER.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

COLORED SKILLED WORKMEN JOIN ORGANIZED LABOR FOR FIRST TIME IN KANSAS CITY

JAN 10 1941

Union Barrier Against Negroes Broken; Way Open for Men in Other Skilled Trades to Organize

Negroes were admitted into a trade union of skilled workmen for the first time in the history of this city Sunday afternoon, January 5, when 28 Negro carpenters were organized into a local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

The first major barrier toward getting national defense jobs at Fort Riley, Kas., and other centers in this area was broken down when carpenters from both Kansas Cities, Topeka and Leavenworth were initiated into the union by Larry S. Braten, international representative of the Carpenters' union. The initiation and installation of officers was held at Slaughter's hall in Kansas City, Kas.

Whitaker Is President

Mr. Braten was assisted in the organization by J. O. Mack, business agent of the Carpenters district council, 3114 the Paseo.

Mr. Braten presented the charter of organization to F. L. Whitaker, temporary president of the local union.

The officers of the local installed Sunday afternoon were: F. L. Whitaker, president; Squire Williams, vice president; Harold Robbins, recording secretary; Archie Gregg Jr., financial secretary; Oscar Hall, treasurer and Ira Hightower, conductor.

The three trustees are: John L. Mason, elected for 30 months; Harold Robbins, 18 months; and Carlos A. Grant, six months.

Other men taken into the union on Sunday were: Leon Hall, W. O Payton and M. W. Ransom of Topeka, Kas.; A. W. Wiggenton and Charles McLemore of Leavenworth; Oscar Hall, S. M. McDuffie, W. E. Robbins, Ed Thomas, Ross N. Ward, H. H. Harrell, Ernest Etire, J. H. Hodge, D. W. McClellan, B T. Sexton, N. E. Jackson, J. W. Flagg, George Ruffin, H. W. Haynes, Roy Howard M. W. Littlejohn and John Ivory.

JAN 10 1941

Charter Fee Paid

The men joined the union upon payment of a $10 initiation fee. The regular $80 initiation fee of the Kansas City district council was reduced to $10 for charter members. After the charter was presented Sunday, the $10 fee no longer is in effect.

The fee for men who join the union after Sunday and work in the area of the local district council will be $80 initiation fee. A special fee of $40 will be charged men who go to work in the Fort Riley and Camp Funston areas.

The organization of the union is an outgrowth of efforts made by the Colored Builders Association of Kansas to become unionized. Negro building tradesmen of Kansas City, Kas., organized two years ago for the purpose of securing HOLC work through united effort. They were successful.

When Negro skilled tradesmen were barred from national defense jobs because they were not members of unions, the Colored Builders Association organized community support in both Kansas Cities and finally succeeded in getting the ear of Larry S. Braten, international representative of the Carpenters Union, who immediately set about to organize the Negro carpenters into a local union. Other skilled workmen are expected to be organized soon, the painters already having made negotiations with the Painters union.

The Negro carpenters union will have the same voice in the Carpenters' district council as the seven other local unions in the Kansas City area.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PRESENT WAGE CALLED SLAVE RATESTANDARD

Southern States Council Proposes New Scale At Convention

JUN 23 1941

HARVIELL, Mo. — Delegates from 26 U.C.A.P.A.W.A.-C.I.O. locals representing 30,000 sharecroppers, wage laborers and tenant farmers in the South met at the Sharecroppers camp here Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15, for the third annual convention of the Southern States Cotton council.

Three hundred delegates raised the demand of 10 per cent of the cotton market price for picking cotton and the full market price for the sharecroppers' share of cotton sold.

They pointed out that virtual peonage existed in the South by reason of slavery wages of 60 cents and one dollar a day, and payment of this in brozine money and doodlum books, redeemable only at the boss' commissary.

Leaders stated, "the only time anything was done about our conditions in the South was when we had a demonstration on Highway 61. If this is the only way we can get attention and assistance, there will be more demonstrations, until such time as we can enjoy the so-called American standard of living and see some of the democracy that we hear talked about."

Resolutions were adopted calling for coverage of agricultural workers under the Wage-Hour law, complete coverage under the Social Security laws, an end to discrimination against Negroes in FSA, home economics projects, NYA, WPA, school lunch programs, and state expenditure for education.

Expansion of rural rehabilitation projects was demanded through increased appropriations under the Jones-Bankhead act. A resolution was adopted asking for medical service for the low income farm farm groups.

The delegates demanded that their constitutional right to the vote be upheld and that the poll tax be abolished in the South. They condemned the use of U.S. government troops as strike breakers, and called upon their so-called representatives in Congress to take no action to abridge the democratic right of workers to strike.

A program for intensified work among the youth was adopted, with endorsement of the Southern Negro Youth Congress and the League of Young Southerners, and calling for organization of the young people in cooperation with the union.

Speakers and officers at the convention included Harold J. Lane, secretary-treasurer of the UCAPAWA; Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, vice president of UCAPAWA; Harry Koger, president of the Southern States Cotton council, and Mr. Bankson of the Farm Security administration.

The program adopted for the coming year was dedicated to Elinor Henderson, wife of International UCAPAWA President Donald Henderson, whose recent death ended a long period of devoted work among agricultural workers.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

TAXICAB ORGANIZATION FILES ORDINANCE SUIT

APR 25 1941

APR 25 1941

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Elisha Scott. Topeka attorney, has been retained by the Negro Taxicab association to represent them in their fight against the new taxicab ordinance the provisions of which will force Negro companies out of existence.

Mr. Scott has obtained from Judge Marion D. Waltner of the Independence division of the circuit court a temporary injunction restraining the city, Mayor Gage and the city councilmen from putting into effect an ordinance passed March 17 increasing the taxicab fare rates and requiring taxi companies to take out liability insurance or surety bonds.

A hearing on a permanent injunction is scheduled for Friday, April 18. but it is likely that it will be postponed until a later date.

In the petition, the taxi companies charge that the new ordinance creates a monopoly by a large taxi company and would force the smaller companies, into which category the Negro firms fall, out of business.

APR 25 1941

The new taxi ordinance was to go into effect on April 21, but the city counselor's office announced this week that it would not be enforced until the litigation brought by the Negro companies is settled.

The companies which are filing suit and their managers are the Royal, Ed Fields; Radio, Frank Garrett; Blue Line, Art Lawson; Boone, Jimmy Barnes; Palace, Isadore Gross and Curtis Washington; Paseo, Arthur Bronson; Hollywood, Jimmy Adams, and Monarch, Newt Joseph.

Attorney Scott is being assisted in the taxi litigation by Marion Johnson, local counsel.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Kansas City Painters Into Union

KANSAS CITY, Mo.,—Negro painters, who have been trying for several months to gain membership in the union, have won their fight at last. Fourteen of them have passed the union examination and are being organized in a local union of the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers.

SEP 5 1941

The following men passed the examination and will be charter members of the local: Marshall Howard, M. J. Gipson, Henry Scott, Wayne Hurley, L. L. Slater, Frank Walker, Nathan Chiles, Gomez Robinson, Chester R. Starks, Vernon Warrick, J. L. Simms, Harrison Jackson, Jack Miller, L. J. Turner and William F. McCrary.

2

They probably will be initiated into the union and their local set up within a few days.

The painters have been trying to form a union organization for many months. First one hurdle, then another was put into their path. They carried their fight to President Lindlof of the International Brotherhood of Painters.

SEP 5 1941

3

In their organization efforts, the painters had the assistance and guidance of the Kansas City Urban League, whose industrial secretary, E. Vincent Suitt, took an active part in breaking down the union discrimination. They also received support from progressive white union members, and Negro delegates to the Central Trades council.

4

The painters are the third group of Negro skilled laborers to gain admittance to the unions. The carpenters were first, setting up a local union last winter. The Negro bricklayers were taken into the white union this spring.

Mr. Suitt also is working with a group of cement finishers and plasterers seeking to obtain their admission to union membership so that they, too, may participate in defense work.

35i-1941 NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

MAY 4 - 1941

PERCY R. HINES MAY 4 - 1941

5178 Indiana avenue, whose candidacy for president of the National Alliance of Postal Employees was announced last week. L. F. Ford of St. Louis, Mo., has headed the organization during the past four years. The election is to be held in August, at Baltimore, Maryland, where the eleventh biennial convention of the body will meet. Hines was editor of The Postal Alliance, official organ of the Alliance, from 1935 to 1939. He has been in the government service for 18 years, being active in the NAPE for the past 15 years.

351-1941
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGROES IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY

National Association Of Negroes In American Industry Is Formed With Headquarters In Philadelphia

APR 1 2 1941

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The creation of a national organization designed to "interpret American business and industry to Negroes and that racial group, in turn, to these interests," was announced this week by Bishop David Henry Sims, resident head of the African Methodist Church. The new organization will be known as the National Association of Negroes in American Industry.

In announcing the new unit, which has an impressive national board of directors and a yet incomplete list of "advisors," the latter made up of highly influential business and industrial figures, the Philadelphia churchman said that one of the main objects of the association will be to "create a healthy and helpful atmosphere in which Negro employment may increase."

APR 1 2 1941

As now established, the organization will be non-profit making and registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with headquarters in Philadelphia. Three major departments will carry on the work beginning May 1, according to the announcement. These will be, Industrial Research, Public Information and Membership and Organization.

The industrial research unit will make studies of all major American industrial firms in an effort to: (1) secure such information about the corporations, the products they make and their managements as would tend to "create good will and better understanding" of them on the part of Negroes throughout the country: and (2) make formal recognition of firms which employ Negroes.

The widespread dissemination of this information through Negro newspapers and the organization's own publications, will be carried on by the public information setup. This, through the publishing of a magazine, tracts and pamphlets will attempt to reach a "major portion of the Nation's Negro citizens." Joining with the association's research unit, the public information machinery will move almost immediately to "sponsor conferences and roundtables concerning industry and Negroes in the national emergecy."

While the board of directors will have "perhaps two or three additions, that unit will be exclusively Negro; while the advisory committee will be made up of both racial groups. Those who will serve immediately, according to Bishop Sims include:

Board of Directors

Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute; James H. N. Waring, principal of the Downington (Pa.) Industrial School; Dr. Edgar Love, head of Church Extension for the Methodist Episcopal Church; Dr. Emmett J. Scott, former treasurer of Howard University, now with the Republican National Committee, Washington, D. C.; Dr. John M. Gandy, president of Virginia State College; Ludlow W. Werner, managing editor of The New York Age; Dr. William Bell, chairman of the board of the Conference of Land Grant Colleges and president of Alcorn (Miss.) College: Dr. J. R. E. Lee, president of Florida State College, Tallahassee, and Dr. John W. Davis, president of West Virginia State College.

While Bishop Sims, who is serving as temporary chairman of the association's board, did not name those who have been invited to serve on the advisory committee, it is known that the unit has grown out of a deep interest in Negroes and their understanding of American industry on the part of Walter D. Fuller, president of the Curtis Publishing Company and head of the National Association of Manufacturers. Fuller was given the Philadelphia Interracial Award on Lincoln's birthday in recognition of his work and will be honored by a Negro college with a degree in June.

The advisory unit, which will, no doubt, hold only annual meetings, will be recruited, it is thought from the high ranks of industrial management which has shown an interest in the group. "This body", Bishop Sims said, "will do more than any other unit possibly could do to aid Negroes across the hurdle now thrown across their path by portions of unfriendly segments of ogranizer labor and toward "gainful employment as against relief and frustration."

That the organization will not be one of pressure, but an open friendly figure in industry's corner is seen in the fact that the association will be sustained by memberships of three denominations: firm, group and individual. Firms will be offered memberships on a similar basis as now used by trade organizations and chambers of commerce. Schools and colleges will hold memberships and workers in industry will be given free scholarships "for contributions of any amount."

The organization will move immediately to establish its personnel, according to Bishop Sims, for the three major departments. Most of this, he said would depend upon a "forecast of the association's budget requirements, which are expected to approximate $20,000 annually."

APR 1 2 1941

Joseph V. Baker Offered Post

While no announcement was formally made, it is known that the executive secretaryship of the association will be offered to Joseph V. Baker, Philadelphia publisher. At present director of the Division of Negro Research and Planning for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Baker is chairman of the board of the Republican State Negro Council in his state and owner of the Brown American Magazine, which is devoted to building industrial good will among Negroes. A columnist for the Philadelphia Sunday Inquirer, Baker has long been connected with industry in the capacity of public relations counsel a business in which he is still active.

APR 1 2 1941

Whether Baker would resign his position with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to accept the directorship of the new unit could not be learned; but sources close to a number of the publicity figure's organizational connections said that "it is altogether possible." Baker's Pennsylvania unit is now engaged in a state-wide drive for jobs for Negroes in Defense industries.

Palmetto Leader
Columbia, S. C.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGROES IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY ORGANIZED

APR 12 1941

Philadelphia, Pa., April 9—The creation of a national organization designed to "interpret American Business and Industry to Negroes and that racial group, in turn, to these interests," has been announced, here, by Bishop David Henry Sims, resident head of the African Methodist Church. The new organization will be known as the National Association of Negroes in American Industry.

In annuouncing the new unit which has an impressive national board of directors and a yet incomplete list of "advisors," the latter made up of highly influential business and industrial figures, the Philadelphia churchman said that one of the main objects of the association will be to "create a healthy and helpful atmosphere in which Negro employment may increase."

As now established, the organization will be non-profit making and registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with headquarters in Philadelphia. Three major departments will carry on the work beginning May 1 according to the announcement. These will be, Industrial Research, Public Information and Membership and Organization.

The industrial research unit will make studies of all major American industrial firms in an effort to : (1) secure such information about the corporations the products they make and their managements as would tend to "create good will and better understanding" of them on the part of Negroes throughout the country; and (2) make formal recognition of firms which employ Negroes.

APR 12 1941

The widespread dissemination of this information through Negro newspapers and the organization's own publications, will be carried on by the public information setup. This, through the publishing of a magazine, tracts and pamphlets will attempt to reach a "major portion of the Nation's Negro citizens." Joining with the association's research unit, the public information machinery will move almost immediately to "sponsor conferences and roundtables concerning industry and Negroes in the national emergency."

While the board of directors will have "perhaps two or three additions, that unit will be exclusively Negro; while the advisory committee will be made up of both racial groups. Those who will serve immediately, according to Bishop Sims include:

Dr. Frederick D. Patterson presideent of Tuskegee Institute

James H. N. Waring, principal of the Downington (Pa) Industrial School; Dr. Edgar Love head of Church Extension for the Methodist Episcopal Church; Emmett J Scott, former treasurer of Howard University, now with the Republican National Committee, Washington, D. C.; Dr. John M Gandy, president of Virginia State College; Ludlow W. Werner vice president of the New York Age Publishing Co. Dr Wm. Bell chairman of the board of the Conference of Land Grant Colleges and president of Alcorn (Miss.) College; J. R. E. Lee, president of Florida State College, Tallahassee; and Dr. John W. Davis, president of West Virginia State College.

APR 12 1941

While Bishop Sims, who is serving as temporary chairman of the association's board, did not name persons who have been invited to serve on the unit's advisory committee, it is known that the unit has grown out of a deep interest in Negroes and their understanding of American industry on the part of Walter D. Fuller, president of the Curtis Publishing Company and head of the National Association of Manufacturers. Fuller was given the Philadelphia Interracial Award on Lincoln's birthday in recognition of his work and will be honored by a Negro college with a degree in June.

The advisory unit, which will no doubt, hold only annual meetings, will be recruited, it is thought from the high ranks of industrial management which has shown an interest in the group. "This body," Bishop Sims said, "will do more than any other unit possibly could do to aid Negroes across the hurdle now thrown across their path by portions of unfriendly segments of organized labor" and toward "gainful employment as against relief and frustration."

That the organization will not be one of pressure, but an openly friendly figure in industry's corner is seen in the fact that the association will be sustained by memberships of three denominations: firm, group and individual. Firms will be offered memberships on a similar basis as now used by trade organizations and chambers of commerce. The schools and colleges will hold memberships and workers in industry will be given free memberships "for contributions of any amount."

APR 12 1941

The organization will move immediately to establish its personnel, according to Bishop Sims for the three major departments. Most of this, he said would depend upon a "forecast of the association's budget requirements, which are expected to approximate $20,000 annually."

While no announcement was formally made, it is known that the executive secretaryship of the association will be offered to Joseph V. Baker, Philadelphia publisher. At present director of the Division of Negro Research and Planning for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Baker is chairman of the board of the Republican State Negro Council in his state and owner of the Brown American Magazine, which is devoted to building industrial good will among Negroes. A columnist for the Philadelphia Sunday Inquirer, Baker has long been connected with industry in the capacity of public relations counsel, a business in which he is still active.

Whether Baker would resign his position with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to accept the directorship of the new unit could not be learned; but sources close to a number of the publicity figure's organization connections said that "it is altogether possible." Baker's Pennsylvania unit is now engaged in a state-wide drive for jobs for Negroes in Defense industries.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NMU Takes Militant Stand Against Racial Prejudices

Seamen's Union Urges Members to Blot Prejudice from Within Ranks—Used As Employers' Weapon.

CLEVELAND, O., July 17.—Delegates to the third annual unity convention of the National Maritime Union, held here all last week, went down the line on the question of minority representation and treatment within and without the union.

The official report for the convention contained a 2,000-word chapter devoted to minority (Negro and foreign-born) problems within the union and called for the creation of a committee to deal actively with these problems.

Under the leadership of Ferdinand Smith, himself a Negro and secretary of the National Maritime Union, Negro and Filipino delegates, 42 in number, participated in a formal conference with other delegates for the purpose of considering frankly the problems of minority groups in the industry and of formulating a program to be carried back to the crews on ship.

PREJUDICE USED AS WEAPON

"This is one problem," Smith said, "that cannot be solved at the top. It must be solved by the rank and file, by the men who sail the ships."

The official report on minorities read in part:

"Prejudice is an employer weapon, a powerful employer weapon. It doesn't originate with workers. It is subtly fostered and spread by employers for one purpose: to keep the workers divided. If they can't keep us divided on one issue, they try to keep us divided on another.

"Naturally, segregation is wrong, ethically wrong. It is indecent, intolerant and uncivilized.

"But it is even more than that. It is dangerous. It is dangerous to the organization which practices it. It is a source of weakness that can, if allowed to continue for long, seriously threaten the very existence of the organization. That's why employers cultivate it.

"Officials of the union, agents and patrolmen, will have to take a more active part in wiping out this source of weakness. But, more important still, is the work ttat can be done by delegates to this convention, when they go back to the ships.

"Our members must be clarified on this and other issues. If they are clarified, they will recognize discrimination as a trade union issue—nothing else."

JUL 19 1941

354

Time
Chicago, Illinois

LABOR

Hard A-Starboard

To his National Maritime Union, convention-anchored at Cleveland, Skipper Joe Curran hollered from the bridge in rough and hearty iron-man style. His shout shivered the political timbers of some of his delegates. There was some question about whether he was really navigating—or whether he was acting under sealed orders. In any case, war between Germany and Russia called for a new compass course from Skipper Curran. Thereupon he flung N.M.U.'s helm hard a-starboard, neatly following the latest zig in the Communist Party zigzag.

New course: ". . . We recognize the present struggle of Great Britain and the Soviet Union against the forces of Fascism to be sincere and requiring the full support of all liberty-loving people throughout the world." Up to that moment Britain's war, through Joe's rosy, red-rimmed binoculars, had been just another imperialistic bloodletting, and to hell with it. But now there was a Red star in the heavens for ~~N.M.U.~~'s sailors to steer by.

After warning those below decks that mutineers plotted to start a scrap, cause arrests, then seize the Convention, Joe showed another glimpse of red underwear by roughly quashing an attempt to have him and other officers investigated on charges that there were Communists in the union's high places. Waiter Joe Doyle* of the S.S. *Ancon*, proponent of the resolution, asked for a trial board of outsiders, with one *Daily Worker* Red on it. No support came from the floor. From the chair: "This resolution is designed for one purpose—to smash the N.M.U." Doyle replied that its sole purpose was to get to the bottom of charges that the union "is filled up with Commies." Amidst jeering and booing, Waiter Doyle first offered to stand trial himself on his unionism, then resigned from N.M.U. This would cost him his job, Curran promised, because the *Ancon's* N.M.U. crew would not stand for his being aboard.

In the show Skipper Curran put on, the highlights were also rosy.

▶ Fellow ~~Traveler Paul Rob~~eson cut loose with some fine old wobbly rabble-rousers, the scalp-tingling *Ballad for Americans*.

▶ Hero of the convention was Australian Harry Bridges, gaunt, hot-eyed boss of C.I.O.'s West Coast longshoremen, now being investigated for deportation on the grounds that he was once a member of the Communist Party. Bridges rambled into the hall three days late, grinned happily amidst his welcome: confetti, dancing, hammerings, five minutes' yelling. N.M.U. had already gone on record against his deportation. Host Curran: ". . . a very distinguished citizen who has caused a great deal of concern in the National Association of Manufacturers."

Brightly framed by his own portrait on the stage, Bridges shouted: "We know who is the greatest threat to this world—and it's not the Reds. Our big job is to destroy the Fascist forces in America."

---

* Back in New York, Doyle found that his job was gone. Said he: "The crew always knew of my anti-Communist stand."

JUL 7 1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Maritime Union Asks End to Jim Crowism

354

Urge F. D. R. to Refuse Contracts To Firms Which Discriminate

CLEVELAND—Delegates to the third convention of the National Maritime Union scattered to their ships today with resolutions backing the fight to end discrimination in American industry.

President Roosevelt was called upon to refuse defense contracts to firms which refuse to hire Negroes or who practise discrimination in any other way.

"Discrimination", the report of the ~~NMU~~ National Officers said, "is an employer weapon. It is used to keep workers divided. It is subtly fostered and spread by anti-labor employers for one purpose, to keep Negro and white workers from working together to solve their common problems."

Congressman Vito Marcantonio's bill forbidding government agencies to give contracts to firms practising discrimination was supported unanimously in one of the strongest resolutions passed by the convention.

"Such discrimination weakens our defense effort," the resolution said. "It is typical of countries dominated by Hitler and of those practising fascism. It is a complete violation of our Bill of Rights."

Another resolution passed unanimously by the 350 delegates was directed at segregation in the army, navy, marine and air corps

"The armed forces of our country can only function as a democratic instrument for the people when all members, regardless of race, color or creed, are given equal opportunities to lend their best abilities.

"We call upon the President of the United States to issue an executive order doing away with this discrimination and demonstrating to the world that our people is a democratic and free people, doing everything in our power to serve the best interests of our nation."

It was also voted to ask for a raise in pay for men in the army.

The high point in the convention, from the dramatic and emotional viewpoint, was not a trade union action. It was the appearance of Paul Robeson, the world's foremost singer, for whom the delegates staged a demonstration such as is rarely seen in trade union meetings.

Before singing, Robeson praised the NMU for its work in eliminating much of the discrimination which used to characterize the shipping industry.

After praising the Soviet Union for its championship of "the oppressed peoples of the world", he called for aid to that country in its fight against fascism.

The convention called for formation of a Farmer Labor Party of trade unions, Negroes, Youth, and other groups for protection of their economic interests.

A resolution of support for the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill was adopted unanimously.

JUL 25 1941

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Discord In Harlem Labor Union After Bus Victory

MAY 8 - 1941

NEW YORK (ANP)—Difference of opinion over policy and method of functioning, particularly in connection with the recent successful collaboration of the organization in the campaign for the employment of Negroes on major bus lines here, last week resulted in the ousting from the Harlem union of Joseph Allen, business agent, and Quentin Knight, an organizer.

The action comes as the latest development in the reorganizing process instituted by President Roger Straughn, and took the form of a motion before the executive committee of the union to sever the relations of the two from the group for "just cause." The vote was unanimously approved. Some two or three weeks ago Columbus A. Alston, publicity director of the union, was ousted.

Disapproved of Twice

In the explanation given for the committee's action, it was revealed that these three men disapproved of the tri-partite agreement arrived at between the United Negro Bus association, with which the Harlem Labor union is affiliated, the New York City Omnibus corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach company, and the Transport Workers union of America. The contract was the result of a four-week struggle to secure jobs for Negroes as chauffeurs and mechanics with the companies on a population ratio basis the maximum of which would be about 510 men. The agreement further stipulated the manner in which these men would be hired and trained.

MAY 8 - 1941

Other Charges Made

According to a spokesman for the ousted members, immediate employment of Negroes will be postponed because the bus association "was unwilling to demand the firing of whites" in order to make room for the Negroes. This spokesman was critical of any disposition on the part of the Harlemites to reach a compromise, in spite of the enthusiastic reception given the final document by the community who felt a victory had been registered.

MAY 8 - 1941

While the bus incident precipitated the Monday debate, it was said that other facts were presented which mitigated against the men.

Knight was said to have fallen down on his production in that he neither brought in new members nor adjusted any contracts requiring attention. He was, however, "regular in appearing on Friday evening for his check." The conduct of both men was said to be responsible too because of their "anti-Semitic beliefs," a thing that "brought much embarrassment and hurt to the organization."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'Big 6' Local Strikes Harlem Negro Paper

Picket Amsterdam News for Violating Union Pact on Employment

MAY 8 1941

The New York Amsterdam Star News, Negro weekly newspaper with editorial offices at 2340 Eighth Ave., is being picketed by members of the "Big Six," New York local of the International Typographical Union, because of that paper's employment of non-union labor in its printing plant at Hawthorne, N. J.

Picketing began yesterday.

Picketing of the printing plant, the Fairlawn Newspaper Printing Co., started two weeks ago on orders from the Paterson, N. J. local of the International Typographical Union when the management broke the union agreement by using non-union labor for night work after the unionized day shift had gone home.

It is reported that Dr. C. B. Powell and Dr. P. M. H. Savory, owners and publishers of the Amsterdam Star-News, and part owners of the Fairlawn Newspaper Printing Co., and Joseph Merola, a third partner, had an agreement with the union to employ at least 50 per cent Negroes. Most Negroes who were sent to work at the plant, however, were rejected by Merola, after a short "trial," as "incompetent," with the result that no Negroes have worked steadily there.

The management refused to meet members of the union for settlement of the dispute.

MAY 8 1941

The New York Newspaper Guild is showing keen interest in the controversy and has indicated its intention to take action within a few days, provided a settlement has not been made in the meantime.

The National Negro Congress and the Harlem Labor Union are supporting the strike of the Typographical Union, the former issuing a leaflet calling for picketing of the Amsterdam Star-News until the plant in which it is printed ceases its anti - union and anti - Negro policies

---

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ATTRIBUTE NEW HIGH MARK TO TRANSIT JOBS

MAY 10 1941

Districts Salary Standard Raised By Bus Strike Settlement In N.Y.

NEW YORK — "Harlem's income has been upped $1,000 per month already as a result of the first two weeks of the bus strike agreement," the Greater New York Coordinating committee for employment through its chairmen, Drs. William Lloyd Imes and A. Clayton Powell Jr., announced Saturday.

The New York City Omnibus corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach company and Transport Workers Union are living up to the agreement which opens new jobs to Race workers. Seven men have been employed already in the maintenance division. Scores of applicants have been carefully examined and approved and are being held in readiness for openings as they arise.

MAY 10 1941

In the bus drivers division, E. C. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the corporation has indicated that the first crew of 10 will be chosen next week and placed in training immediately. All men are being accepted into the Transport Workers union as soon as they are employed.

Dr. Powell Jr., stated that the lowest wage paid the seven who are already working is $25 per week and the two top men, Claude Smith and Alvin A. Amos are receiving $1.40 per hour as first line mechanics, on a 48-hour week. This figures out to $67 per week.

Claude V. Smith is a first grade Diesel engine mechanic. He is 38 years old, married and has four children. He was all smiles when the telegram came ordering him to to report to work. "Who wouldn't be happy working at $1.40 an hour and four kiddies home to be fed." Alvin A. Amos, 34, of Brooklyn, is the other mechanic employed.

It is estimated that by the middle of the summer the number of men working as first line mechanics, maintenance men and drivers will bring to Harlem's coffers around $10,000 per month. Joe Ford, the captain of the pickets during the strike and now the placement secretary, pointed out:

"This campaign cost the people of Harlem a little over $500. That means that the seven men who are working already will make twice what the campaign cost us each month."

Dr. Powell Jr., is going to Chicago on May 12 to speak for the Negro Labor Relations League of which Joe Jefferson is president, at the Du Sable high school. It is expected that a campaign will be launched then for the same type of jobs in Chicago.

MAY 10 1941

The Greater New York Coordinating committee for employment is now laying plans to make further inroads on all chain five and 10-cent stores, chain clothing stores, finance companies, credit houses, insurance companies, cigarette companies and also Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola companies.

Philip Morris cigarettes have already employed John Sandifer as public relations man on salary and commission.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

We Agree With the Board

The New York State Labor Relations Board has dismissed a petition filed by the Bartenders and Restaurant Employees Union against a Harlem Chinese Cafe owner with the declaration that "the board will not be a party to establishing a bargaining unit based solely upon racial distinctions."

JUL 19 1941

It appears that the labor organization had attempted to organize the Negro workers in the restaurant, but did not wish to include the Chinese employees. The management of the place insisted that the workers unit should include all full time employees, regardless of racial classification.

In dismissing the case the board ruled that "the policies of the act do not contemplate a bargaining unit based solely on racial distinctions, nor does any law in this State sanction such a result. Indeed the opposite is the case. The public policy of the State frowns upon discrimination or differentiation based upon race, color, creed, or religion.

"The fact that the jurisdiction of the union is said to be so limited that it cannot accept Oriental employees into membership and that the union bases its unit claim wholly upon the asserted limitation, leave us no choice but to find inappropriate the unit sought."

In other words, the State board does not condone discrimination in labor unions. Neither do we, no matter who is on which end.

JUL 19 1941

Pittsburgh ourier
Pittsburgh Pa.

HARLEMITES BENEFIT BY N. Y. BUS STRIKE

MAY 10 1941

NEW YORK, May 8—"Harlem's income has been upped $1,000 per month already as a result of the first two weeks of the bus strike agreement." The Greater New York Co-ordinating Committee for Employment, through its chairman, Drs. William Lloyd Imes and A. Clayton Powell Jr., announced this on Saturday.

The New York City Omnibus Corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the Transport Workers' Union are living up to each jot and tittle of the agreement. Seven men have been employed already in the maintenance division. Scores of applicants have been carefully examined and approved and are being held in readiness for openings as they arise.

In the bus drivers' division, E. C. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the corporation, has indicated that the first crew of 10 will be chosen next week and placed in training immediately. All men are being accepted into the Transport Workers' Union as soon as they are employed.

MAY 10 1941

Dr. Powell Jr. stated that the lowest wage paid the seven who are already working is $25 per week and the two top men, Claude Smith and Alvin A. Amos, are receiving $1.40 per hour as first line mechanics, on a 48-hour week. This figures out to $67 per week.

Claude V. Smith, 2637 Seventh avenue, apartment 3-B, is a first grade Diesel engine mechanic. He is 38 years old, married and has four children. He was all smiles when the telegram came ordering him to report to work. "Who wouldn't be happy working at $1.40 an hour and four kiddies home to be fed?" Alvin A. Amos, 430 Vanderbilt avenue, Brooklyn, married, 34 years old, is the other mechanic employed.

It is estimated that by the middle of the summer the number of men working as first line mechanics, maintenance men and drivers will bring to Harlem's coffers around $10,000 per month. Joe Ford, the captain of the pickets during the strike and now the placement secretary, pointed out:

"This campaign cost the people of Harlem a little over $500. That means that the seven men who are working already will make twice what the campaign cost us each month."

MAY 10 1941

Dr. Powell Jr. is going to Chicago on May 12 to speak for the Negro Labor Relations League, of which Joe Jefferson is president, at the DuSable high school. It is expected that a campaign will be launched then for the same type of jobs in Chicago.

The Greater New York Co-ordinating Committee for Employment is now laying plans to make further inroads on all chain five and ten cent stores, chain clothing stores, finance companies, credit houses, insurance companies, cigaret companies and also Pepsi-Cola and Cola-Cola companies. Philip Morris cigarets have already employed John Sandifer, 327 Edgecombe avenue, as public relations man on salary and commission.

ǫournal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Seven Men Employed As Result of Bus Strike

MAY 10 1941

NEW YORK—"Harlem's income has been upped $1,000 per month already as a result of the first two weeks of the bus strike agreement," the Greater N. Y. Coordinating Committee for Employment, through its chairmen, Drs. William Lloyd Imes and A. Clayton Powell, Jr., announced last week.

MAY 10 1941

In the N. Y. City Omnibus Corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach Co., seven men have been employed already in the maintenance division. Scores of applicants have been approved and are being held in readiness for openings as they arise.

In the bus drivers division, E. C. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the corporation, has indicated that the first crew of 10 will be chosen next week and placed in training immediately. All men are being accepted into the Transport Workers Union as soon as they are employed.

Dr. Powell stated that the lowest wage paid the seven who are already working is $25 per week and the two top men, Claude Smith and Alvin A. Amos are receiving $1.40 per hour as first line mechanics, for a 48-hour week.

It is estimated that by the middle of the summer the number of men working as first line mechanics, maintenance men and drivers will bring to Harlem's coffers around $10,000 per month.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

200 ITALIANS ROUT NEGROES

Reporter, Employees Held Prisoners By 200 Angry Italian CIO Strikers

By ALFRED A. DUCKETT

For a thrill-packed, fear-crowded sixty minutes Monday evening I, along with seven companions, was held prisoner in a dim Brooklyn factory plant outside of which paraded, pranced and jeered no less than two hundred enraged strikers and strike sypmathizers in what might have been a one hund[illegible] pe[illegible]scist demonstration in Il Duce's Italy. During that hour, despite constant appeals to Police Headquarters for protection, the seven other Negroes and myself had the flimsy security of two indifferent policemen separating us from a fist-brandishing, name-calling little army of Italian CIO workers and their friends who would have given anything to trample us to bits.

JUL 12 1941

The factory was the Nasco Awning Company, located at the corners of Sackman street and Atlantic avenue, a stone's throw from the heavily Negro-populated Bedford-Stuyvesant area. Nasco, owned and operated by Harry and Irving Panzer, has a national defense contract and is engaged in the manufacture of puttees uniforms and other army equipment.

Since June 30 the plant has been on strike. On that date some thirty-five of the operators walked out of the plant and began to set up picket lines and engaged in demonstrations. All of their demands concerning wages and hours were either conceded or compromised by the Panzer Brothers. Three stipulations they demanded,, however, were met by the firm's owners with flat denials. The stipulations were in order of demand:

Want Jim Crow Toilets

1. That no colored workers be employed.
2. That colored workers, if employed, must be stationed in one portion of the building with whites in a separate section.
3. That separate lavatories be maintained for colored and white employees.

JUL 12 1941

Nasco's bosses met these outrageous demands of the Textile Workers Union delegate with firm assertion that no such jim crow tactics would be imposed in their plant. At the time of the strike their staff already included several Negroes. They countered the strikers' campaign with a wholesale hiring of Negroes. Inexperienced girls and women were taken on, taught the work and immediately given from $12 to $15 weekly. They also had the employers' pledge that every Negro hired during the strike would be retained, regardless of its outcome.

Warned By The Strikers

On the Monday which I mentioned at the beginning of this story, I had gone to the Nasco plant at the suggestion of Joe Wilson, 18-year-old Brooklynite of 554 Decatur street. Joe had told me of the situation existing at the plant and asked me to come do[illegible]nd se[illegible] f[illegible]yself. He had begun wo[illegible]ere Tuesday, July 1 and the record of his daily experience up until that Monday is typical of what was endured by the twenty to twenty-five other Negro employees at the plant.

JUL 12 1941

147

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Union Pays Tribute to 'Pop' Taylor; Aged Negro Was 'Our Symbol'

Gustav (Pop) Taylor, Negro unionist, said a member, had become a symbol of Local 272. When you thought of the union you thought of Pop Taylor; when you thought of Pop Taylor, you thought of the union. The reason, he said, was that Pop Taylor had been around ever since there'd been an organization—long before that, as a matter of fact, because he'd helped to form it. That was away back in 1928 or '29, when most car owners didn't think of the fellows who washed and polished automobiles as belonging to a union.

At Bailey's Funeral Parlor wreathes six feet high were arranged in a semi-circle behind "Pop" Taylor's casket. Black men and white men, members of Local 272, Garage Washers and Polishers Union, AFL, tiptoed in for a last look before the procession to the church.

Negro and white pall bearers brought the gray rose-covered casket out and slid it gently into the hearse. The procession rolled off down Lenox Ave. toward Mt. Moriah Baptist Church on upper Fifth Ave.

Negro and white members of Local 272 nearly filled the left side of the large church.

The assistant pastor in his eulogy said that Brother Taylor had been a faithful and loyal member of Mt. Moriah. He said that Brother Taylor had worked hard all his life and now was going to take a last long rest. It was a deserved rest, the assistant pastor said. While he lived Brother Taylor had been everything a Christian ought to be. "He was a model Christian. He was a symbol of his church. . . ."

The pastor rose with a sheet of paper. He had some facts about Brother Taylor, he said. He read slowly that Augustus Taylor, born at Taylor, Ga., 65 years ago, had lived in New York nearly 20 years.

Jack Pollard, white, secretary-treasurer of Local 272, spoke for the union. He said briefly that everybody had loved Pop Taylor and felt his going a great loss. Of late, he said, Brother Taylor had been retired from active union duties; had had charge of the union building at 203 E. 92nd St. He had been a source of inspiration to the whole membership.

SEP 20 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

LYNDON HENRY

His later afternoon activities center mostly around broader union matters. During these hours he confers with other fur union leaders, meets with union committees, and so on. He has dinner somewhere around 5 P. M. and averages from one to two shop meetings every night. These meetings last approximately two hours, and when he covers two a night, which is often, he has put in his "short" day of twelve hours.

Meanwhile, he attends night meetings of the New York Negro Congress, in which he is a valuable and active member, meetings of the Industrial Union Council of Greater New York, to which he is a delegate. On other evenings, he attends meetings of peace organizations.

Three times a month he attends long meetings which last close on to midnight—the twice-monthly meetings of the Executive Board of the Furriers, and the once a month meeting of Local 88.

When everything is added up—shop meetings, CIO council, Negro Congress, peace groups, executive board and local membership meetings, there is hardly a day of the month that Lyndon Henry has an evening free for relaxation.

His salary is $60 a week. He gets no expenses. Of his salary, he told this writer, he spends a minimum of $15 a week on carfare, meals and incidentals. That leaves him $45 a week for doing a valuable job in the labor movement that takes virtually every minute of his waking hours—the twelve hour "short day" and the sixteen hour "long day."

Mr. Pegler: this not a copyright story. You may reprint.

JUN 8 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro-White Pickets Reject One-Cent Boost--

35A

By Bernard Burton
(Special to the Sunday Worker)

Elmira, N. Y., June 28.—When a boss offers his striking employes a raise of only a penny an hour, it's just enough to make them stay on the picket line.

That is exactly what more than 500 white and Negro workers of the Kennedy Valve Co. are doing after a six-week strike. By a vote of 523 to 10, the workers secretly voted to continue their walkout until the company grants their demands; equalization of pay with other valve companies, seniority rights, and a union shop.

The workers are members of three AFL craft unions—the Machinists, Molders, and Pattern Makers. These three unions won a joint labor board election at the plant—one of the largest of its kind in the country—before the strike began on May 15.

Two back to work movements have been foiled by the solidarity of the workers. The first was an attempt among the Negro workers through the circulation of false rumors were immediately scotched when the National Negro Congress called a mass seniority rights and the same gains for Negro strikers that would be won by all the workers.

Said one of the strike leaders to the Sunday Worker reporter:

"Henry Ford was stubborn, but he had to sign a union stubborn, but he'll have to contract. J. C. Kennedy is sign too."

JUN 29 1941

A Symbol of Rank and File Unity--Meet Lyndon Henry

~~Daily~~ Sunday Worker

New York N.Y.

JUN 8 1941

Leader of Local 88 of Fur Union Typifies Best in Labor

357

By John Meldon

Lyndon Henry, stocky, precise-speaking Negro organizer of Local 88, Fancy Fur Dyers, is fast becoming one of the outstanding Negro leaders in the trade union movement.

At the age of 42, Lyndon Henry has come a long way against great odds, and is today one of the best liked among the militant leaders of the furriers union. The rank and file swear by him, and perhaps that's the reason that during recent elections, no candidate would run against Lyndon Henry—the opposition wouldn't have stood a chance in the face of his record as an organizer, his prestige as a fighter for the rank and file.

When the Sunday Worker reporter interviewed Mr. Henry at his office at 245 Seventh Ave. here, several other officials of the furriers sat around in the office and interjected occasionally, especially when Mr. Henry showed too much modesty in answering questions about himself. He insisted in talking about the union; the reporter insisted that the story was not to be about the union, but about an individual named Mr. Lyndon Henry.

One of the officials grinned and said:

JUN 8 1941

"He's too damned modest. Maybe we ought to give you the interview for him, sort of second-handed, but we'll tell you more about Lyndon Henry than he'll tell you himself."

"No, positively no!" Mr. Henry objected. He took off his glasses and wiped them nervously. "In that case, I'll answer the reporter's questions. You fellows will lay it on too thick."

But the others insisted on telling of one incident in Lyndon Henry's history as one of the ace organizers in the furrier's union—an incident which they said would do more to show how the rank and file feels toward him than anything else. They said it was a dramatic event, and as they told about it, that's exactly what it was—dramatic.

They went back to 1935, when Lyndon Henry was still in his swaddling clothes as an official of his local union. He was one of three Negroes in a local which had a majority of Italian members.

GETS ITALIAN SUPPORT

Like a staggering thunderbolt came the Fascist invasion of Ethiopia. Many Italian workers, confused, and on the defensive against the angered protests that come from all sides of the labor movement against Mussolini's murderous legions, argued back. Tempers were razor-edged—and into this bitter atmosphere stepped Lyndon Henry—a Negro — and he ran for re-election to office on the basis of blasting the pants off the invaders.

At times he stood with his back figuratively to the wall. But the Italian workers knew Lyndon Henry, what he had done for their local; the uncompromising battles he had fought with the employers; the terribly long hours he had spent on the job on their behalf, tramping from one shop to another settling grievances: the pioneer organizing he had done in sweat shops . . . and they listened.

He spoke of Italian imperialism as a man who had for years lived as an oppressed Negro subject under British imperialism in the British West Indies. (He was raised in the Indies, but has been an American citizen for many years.)

It was a long struggle, but when Lyndon Henry was through, the Italians who had been confused were no longer confused . . . and when the election ballots were counted he had won office with a big vote, with the majority of Italians voting for him.

Lyndon Henry has held office in the local since 1933. He had been working in the fur trade since 1924 in dye houses, on floor work, on "drumming" and about every other job there is to processing fine furs.

He attended his first union meeting in 1933 when the Furriers Union started a campaign to organize the fur dyeing industry. He got up at his first meeting and told the organizer who was speaking that he was frankly skeptical of the union's policies toward the Negroes in the trade. He admitted that he didn't know the union very well, but he based his suspicion on the treatment accorded Negro labor by the American Federation of Labor.

JUN 8 1941

He was told that the Furriers Union had a splendid record regarding Negroes in the trade and was invited to come into the union and help make that record even better.

He helped organize his shop—the Federal Dyeing Corp. in Brooklyn — and became a leader in a walkout. Then he went with the committee when the boss finally signed the contract and he was chosen to make the union report to the ninety workers of the shop. They were so pleased with his work that he was elected as shop chairman

His rise after that was rapid. He ran for the post of secretary, was elected, and later the 1,100 members of the local turned out and elected him as president.

Today, Lyndon Henry holds the job of manager of Local 88—the key position, and one of the most exacting. His job is to look after 75 shops scattered throughout New York City and New Jersey, and he covers every borough in New York City except Richmond.

He leaves his home on 136th St. in Harlem, where he lives with his wife, Dr. F. Warren, a dental surgeon (one of the few women dental surgeons in the country) around 8 A.M every morning and begins a day of activity that may be what he calls a "short day" (around 12 hours) or a "long day" (which might end at 11:30 P.M.).

BROAD ACTIVITIES

His first job in the morning is visiting shops where there is union business to attend. It may entail a meeting with a shop chairman, an argument with a boss or sitting in on a grievance matter. That keeps him busy until 2 P.M. every day, and he covers an enormous amount of territory in this phase of his work.

JUN 8 1941

He is back at his office at 2 P.M. where he takes care of his mail and after that is disposed of, then comes an endless series of interviews with workers of his local. They range anywhere from organizational problems in the shops, to purely personal matters with which the members come to Lyndon Henry for advice.

He also insists on looking after the health of the members of Local 88, and he spends a lot of his time seeing to it that members who need medical attention are convincd they need it, and that they get it.

35i-1941
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

NEW YORK

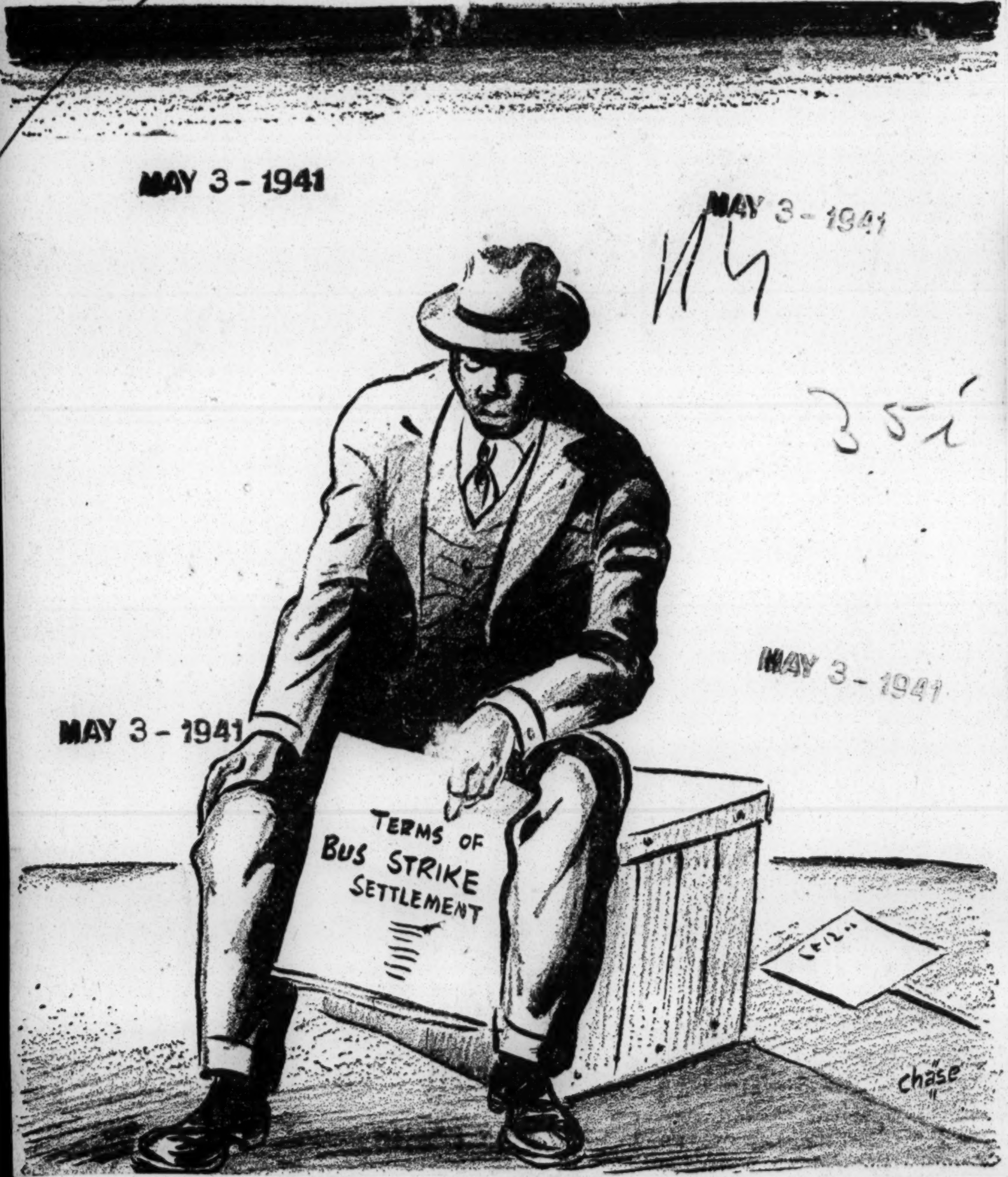
Victory Or Scrap Of Paper?

MAY 3 - 1941

MAY 3 - 1941

NY

35i



MAY 3 - 1941

MAY 3 - 1941

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

I WRITE AS I SEE

By ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET

MAY 1 - 1941

Bus Strike Victory

The New York City bus strike was a brilliant demonstration of Negro solidarity and determination. It ought to get things going in a dozen other communities throughout the country.

FAUSET

Philadelphia needs to follow suit.

Of course, the Harlem community was aided by the fact that Negroes who boycotted the privately owned motor buses still could use the municipally owned subway and elevated trains for their transportation over the city.

In our own city, unfortunately, a similar boycott of PTC, for the purpose of compelling employment of Negro conductors and motormen on our trolleys and buses, would leave Negroes without the means of getting to and fro in this area. Nevertheless, we Negroes have got to find some way to battle PTC in this issue and get a share of these jobs.

STRONG LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE NECESSARY

There are as many Negroes in Philadelphia as in Harlem. True we are more scattered, but our nickels and dimes mean just as much. There is no reason why the city controlled PTC should be permitted to continue its Jim Crow practices as far as conductors and motormen are concerned. The situation on Nos. 30 and 40 is a disgrace.

Detroit and New York City have discarded these practices long ago. Why not Philadelphia?

MAY 1 - 1941

For such a struggle we will need fighters like Goldie Ervin, Lenerte Roberts, Harry Greene, Martin Fields, Phophet Cherry, John Rice, John Perdue, etc., who will not be afraid of the gaff, who will not give up, who have brains, and who will not sell us out. I would like to add some preachers to this list. Will preachers please volunteer?

It will be a hard fight, and we are not quite ready for it; but there is no better time than the present to begin laying the groundwork for the battle. PTC, Philadelphia Electric, United Gas and other public utilities in our city must be battled and made to see the light.

MAY 1 - 194

WAKE UP, PHILADELPHIA

The remarkable thing about the New York City victory is the small cost. It took just four weeks of fighting, and about six hundred dollars to turn the trick.

Down here I'm afraid we'd have a hard time raising that $600. Yet I saw Daddy Grace's followers hand over more than that amount to him in one night less than two weeks ago.

MAY 1 - 1941

Wake up, Philadelphia! What A. Clayton Powell, William Lloyd Imes, Hope Stevens and a few others and their organizations did in New York, we in Philadelphia must duplicate. Freedom for the Negro is not a local thing. It must extend, city by city and state by state. What one group in one locality does must serve as an example and inspiration in all other places.

What do you think about our own prospects? Could we have a few expressions from readers of this column?

(The ideas expressed in the above column do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of this newspaper.—Editor's Note.)

——A Colored Judge——

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan

GETTING THE JOB DONE

MAY 2 1941

Last week reports were circulated that the Negroes of New York City had won their fight with the Major Bus Company serving Harlem, and will get five hundred or more jobs. This is indeed encouraging and goes to show what can be done when an effort is made by the Negro people.

No race of people in America has ever been given anything when they remained silent. The givers always assume your silence is an indication that you are satisfied and they deal around you to take care of the fellows who are not satisfied. Of course the giver does not like it when you raise a fuss. And when the fuss becomes so annoying that you crowd him out of his pants, then some action is started. The New York situation is a good example of that very thing.

MAY 2 1941

Race prejudice, segregation and discrimination close many doors to the Negroes in the ranks of labor. Many of our boys and girls will be coming out of the schools next month with their diplomas seeking places to work. Some will be professional men and women, some will be trained and skilled labor, and some will just want jobs. Now since all of us cannot enter the professions, there is only one alternative left and that is to create jobs for our boys and girls. We must realize that the working class is the foundation upon which we must build the upper structure of our social and economic order. If this foundation is not built on solid ground, the upper structure is bound to collapse. The only solution is to create jobs and jobs with good pay. We feel that every Negro who has sense enough to know how to eat meat and bread should not oppose any effort or any fight launched by Negroes who help make it possible for him to get that meat and bread. We cannot expect the upper structure of our group to last forever on a foundation built on the relief rolls.

We know that many of the other group do not like it when the Negroes put forth an effort to better their economic conditions but we cannot help it if they do not like it and neither do we feel that we should be satisfied with merely nothing because they don't like it. Experience has taught us that nothing from nothing leaves nothing, and that when Negroes remain silent they get nothing, and if they get nothing by whooping it up surely there can be nothing lost. So since it does not cost any more to whoop it up than it does to remain silent, why not try whooping it up just to see what the results will be. The Negroes in New York whooped it up and got five hundred jobs while Negroes in other cities like Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City are silent and they are getting nothing.

MAY 2 1941

The time has come for us as a race of people to close our ranks and not be so quick to surrender, but hold out to the end and let nothing short of death stop us.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

NEGROES WIN 170 JOBS FROM BUS COMPANIES

MAY 3 - 1941

Transport Workers Union Aid Harlem Group in Campaign

NEW YORK—An important victory in the long fight waged by Negroes of Harlem against job discrimination practice by public utilities was won here April 19, when two local bus companies signed an agreement to hire 170 Negro employees including 100 bus drivers, and to increase the number of Negro employees to 70 per cent of the total number of persons employed by them.

Signers of the agreement, which followed a boycott of several weeks against the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, were: J. E. McCarthy, president of both the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York Omnibus Corporation; Michael J. Quill, international president and Austin Hogan, local president, for the Transport Workers Union; and Hope Stevens, president of the Harlem Council of the National Negro Congress; Arnold P. Johnson, Dr. Cecil C. Olliviere, Roger Straughn, and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., as representative of the United Negro Bus Association. The Bus Association group included representatives of the National Negro Congress, the Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Committee for Employment.

The three important points in the agreement are as follows:

A minimum of a hundred Negro drivers will be employed as operators of buses before ohter drivers are employed.

A minimum of 70 Negro workers will be employed as maintenance men in all categories before other workers are employed in this division; and after this minimum number of 100 Negro drivers and 70 Negro maintenance men shall have been employed, 50 per cent of all additional workers employed in the ratio of one Negro worker employed by the parties of the first part and or their affiliated companies shall equal 17 per cent of all workers employed by them exclusively in New York City.

MAY 3 - 1941

Describing the agreement as a landmark in the figth for jobs in public utilities for Negroes in Greater New York, officials of the National Negro Congress declared that the settlement will be used as a basis for carrying forward the job drive in other sections of the country.

An important element in the victory, Congress officials said, sighted leadership shown by Michael Quill and Austin Hogan, of the Transport workers Union, which prevented the bus companies from employing their well known tactics of playing Negroes against whites.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

Elect Negroes Hotel Workers Union Officers

MAY 3 - 1941

Negroes won a vice presidency, four executive board posts and a business agent job in elections of the Building Service Union Local 144, of the Hotel Trades Council, A.F. of L. held at the local's headquarters, 226 West 47th St. recently. The union's roster of 2,300 includes approximately 400 Negroes, employees of metropolitan hotels.

William Pease of the Taft was named vice-president. Executive board posts went to Chester Burks, Carteret; Joseph Munro, Bretton Hall; Floyd White, Theresa and Thomas Hunter, Shelton.

Arthur Garvin, formerly of the Bretton Hall, was reelected business agent.

MAY 3 - 1941

Local 144 is the group which withdrew from Local 32A of the BSU after a jurisdictional and representation dispute which it is asserted, has since been settled satisfactorily with jurisdiction of the hotel workers being assigned to Local 144.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HARLEM'S BUS VICTORY

MAY 3 - 1941

Militant Harlem Negroes have won their fight against the two big bus companies that monopolize bus traffic in their section of the metropolis, and have exacted an agreement to hire 170 colored drivers and maintenance men.

The fight was won by picketing all major bus stops and persuading Negroes not to ride the buses.

This was a great inconvenience to tens of thousands of Negro workers, but nevertheless they stayed off the buses and the battle was won.

The Negroes will not be employed immediately for several reasons set forth in our story last week: reasons which are sound and inescapable; but the fact remains that the companies have been forced to sign an agreement.

If this can be done in New York, it can be done in other places, and should be done.

MAY 3 - 1941

We have got to learn that if we are going to get what we want we shall have to fight and sacrifice to get it.

We know from bitter experience that merely asking for our rights will not get them.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HARLEM'S BUS VICTORY

MAY 3 - 1941

Militant Harlem Negroes have won their fight against the two big bus companies that monopolize bus traffic in their section of the metropolis, and have exacted an agreement to hire 170 colored drivers and maintenance men.

The fight was won by picketing all major bus stops and persuading Negroes not to ride the buses.

This was a great inconvenience to tens of thousands of Negro workers, but nevertheless they stayed off the buses and the battle was won.

The Negroes will not be employed immediately for several reasons set forth in our story last week: reasons which are sound and inescapable; but the fact remains that the companies have been forced to sign an agreement.

If this can be done in New York, it can be done in other places, and should be done.

MAY 3 - 1941

We have got to learn that if we are going to get what we want we shall have to fight and sacrifice to get it.

We know from bitter experience that merely asking for our rights will not get them.

351-1941 NEW YORK

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

$13 a Week to Support a Family--Why 'Y' Workers Are Joining Union

DEC 4 - 1941

DEC 4 - 1941

By Beth McHenry

A $13 a week chambermaid in the Brooklyn YMCA may well question the "Christian" part of the big social agency's title.

The YMCA of Greater New York is against such seemingly Christian principles as collective bargaining, decent wages, hours and working conditions. For a month now the YMCA has been alternately wheedling and harassing its employes to forget about collective bargaining and above all to keep away from the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO.

Joseph H. Levy, director of the National Social Service Division of UOPWA, who heads the organization drive of Social Service Employes Local 19, pulled a few cards at random from a file of membership applications on his desk at the local's headquarters, 39 E. 30th St.

SOME TYPICAL STORIES

Here was a maid, 13 years in the employ of the Brooklyn YMCA, now getting $13.20 a week.

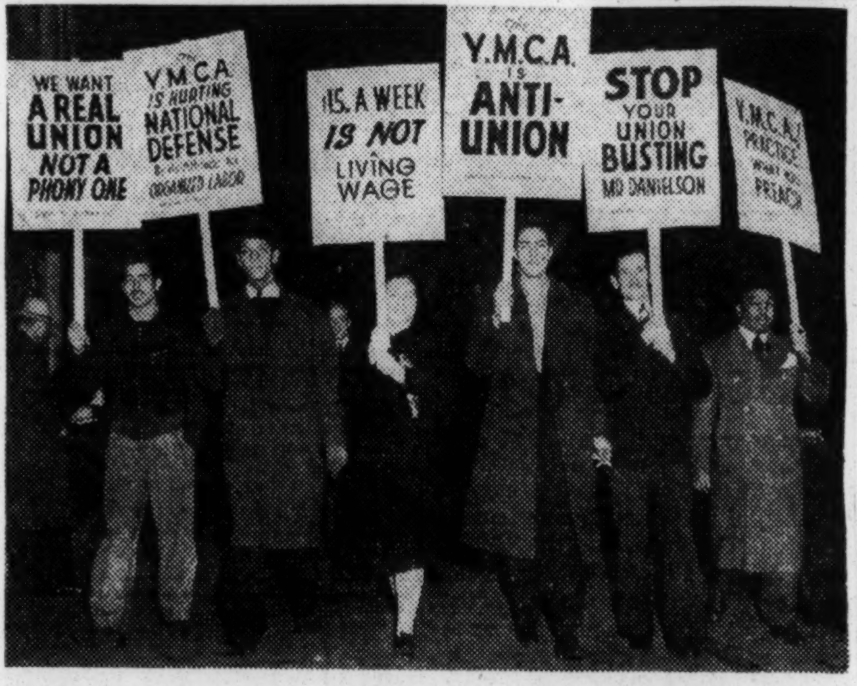
Here was a porter, the father of five children, working 48 hours a week and longer for $17.84 and no overtime.

Another card told of the great difficulty of making out on a two weeks' pay day. This, by the way, said Mr. Levy, is against the state law, which required that wages shall be paid once a week. The union has asked the Division of Inspection of the State Department of Labor to investigate the violation.

WORKED ON HOLIDAYS

A Brooklyn woman employe told of working holidays. Last Christmas, she said, the residents in the "Y" circulated a petition declaring they would "do" their own rooms on that day if the maids were given the day off.

DEC 4 - 1941


WE WANT A REAL UNION NOT A PHONY ONE
YMCA IS HURTING NATIONAL DEFENSE
$15 A WEEK IS NOT LIVING WAGE
Y.M.C.A. IS ANTI-UNION
STOP YOUR UNION BUSTING MR DANIELSON
Y.M.C.A. PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

Union Pickets YMCA: CIO maintenance workers of the United Office and Professional Workers are shown picketing for their wage demands. Many receive as little as $13 weekly.

—Daily Worker Photo

The union began its drive to organize 5,000 New York social agency maintenance workers on Nov. 1. Within one week so many workers had signed up from the YMCA and the YWCA that the union immediately requested an election.

The YMCA heads in New York not only refused the election but at once initiated a campaign of intimidation to frighten their employes into inaction. The union nevertheless made continued headway and the "Y" management tried other tactics, including a $5 a month raise in Manhattan, which workers generally recognized as a bribe to keep them out of the union. At the Railroad Branch of the YMCA, the board even threw a steak dinner one night last week for their employes.

DEC 4 - 1941

The local YMCA's refusal to bargain collectively with its employes is in direct contradiction to the decisions of the organization's last national convention, Mr. Levy pointed out.

"Both the YMCA and the YWCA in their last national convention urged their affiliated organizations to bargain collectively," he explained.

Most of the 35 gentlemen on the New York YMCA's Board are corporation officials, bankers and financiers. An example is the Board's president, Richard W. Lawrence, who is president of the Bankers-Commercial Security Co., chairman of the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Union League Club, and so on.

Because it is a "non-profit" organization, the YMCA claims tax exemption. Because it is a "religious" organization it claims exemption from the provisions of the Wagner Labor Relations Act.

$3,000,000 INCOME

The plain facts of the case, however, according to Mr. Levy are that the YMCA has long been considered a commercial type of organization. The 1940 income of the New York YMCA was $3,000,000, 85 per cent of which, according to Mr. Levy, was derived from payment for services used.

DEC 4 - 1941

Mr. Levy explained that national defense makes the question of collective bargaining and union recognition more important than ever for "Y" workers. Both the YWCA and the YMCA, he pointed out, are linked with the United Service Organizations nationally.

The union charges that the YMCA's of Brooklyn and New York are jeopardizing USO's stand with labor because of their Girdler-like approach to their employes.

Local 19, incidentally, is one of the foremost unions in the city in the matter of national defense. Local 19's set-up is a splendid example of union cooperation with civilian defense. A large percentage of its membership of 2,500 have been interviewed, classified and instructed where to go for defense training. Local 19 has already raised $1,500 of its $4,000 quota for war relief, one-fourth of which is scheduled for USO. A great many of its members contributed a day's pay.

"We don't think a labor dispute at this time is a good thing," Mr. Levy explained. "We're letting the public know right now that it's the 'Y' board in New York City which is trying to provoke a strike. The union has expressed its willingness to use mediation or other peaceful means of reaching an agreement, although we certainly are not afraid of a showdown."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Labor Union Head Faces Deportation

NOV 29 1941

NOV 29 1941

Roger M. Straughn, militant leader of the Harlem Labor Union, was free in $300 bail this week after being held for three days on a Federal warrant charging him with illegal entry into the United States. Widely known as a crusader against "unfair merchants" in the community, the 35-year-old organizer was released last Friday.

Police picked up Straughn early Tuesday night at his office, 236 W. 116th St., and took him immediately to Ellis Island where authorities questioned him about his entry into this country 14 years ago.

Straughn explained, it was learned, that he was registered both as an alien and as a probable selectee for the Army. Later his lawyer, George Ordman, 276 Fifth Ave., produced records to substantiate what he had said.

Elsewhere, it was learned that the union leader's opponents within the Harlem Labor Union have recently been working to "get something on him" to use in the organization's 1942 election. That election is scheduled for January.

NOV 29 1941

A new Federal law, giving District Commissioners of Immigration the power to issue warrants without waiting for orders from Washington, went into effect only a few hours before Straughn's arrest.

Although no date has been set for his hearing before Commissioner Uhl, it is expected that the case will be called within a few weeks.

NOV 29 1941

Specifically, immigration officials accused Straughn of landing at Miami on June 5, 1927, under a 10-day visit permit from the British West Indies, and remaining for more than 14 years.

351-1941

NEW YORK

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

"Bus Strike" Has Backfire

MAR 29 1941

Last week we stated editorially that the truth as to who is keeping Negroes out of the drivers' seats and off the mechanics' benches of the bus lines would eventually be brought to light. The assertion followed statements from union officials that the operators would not hire Negroes, and from the operators that union drivers wouldn't work with Negroes. We are now approaching a showdown.

MAR 29 1941

Mr. Michael Quill, president of the Transport Workers Union told The Amsterdam Star-News that the union doesn't hold a closed shop with the bus operators. He stated, further, that the companies hire all workers who after 30 days' employment, must become members of the union. Hiring, he emphasized, is entirely in the hands of the operators. On the fact of that statement it would seem the burden is on the owners to show why they refuse to give Negroes jobs as chauffeurs and mechanics.

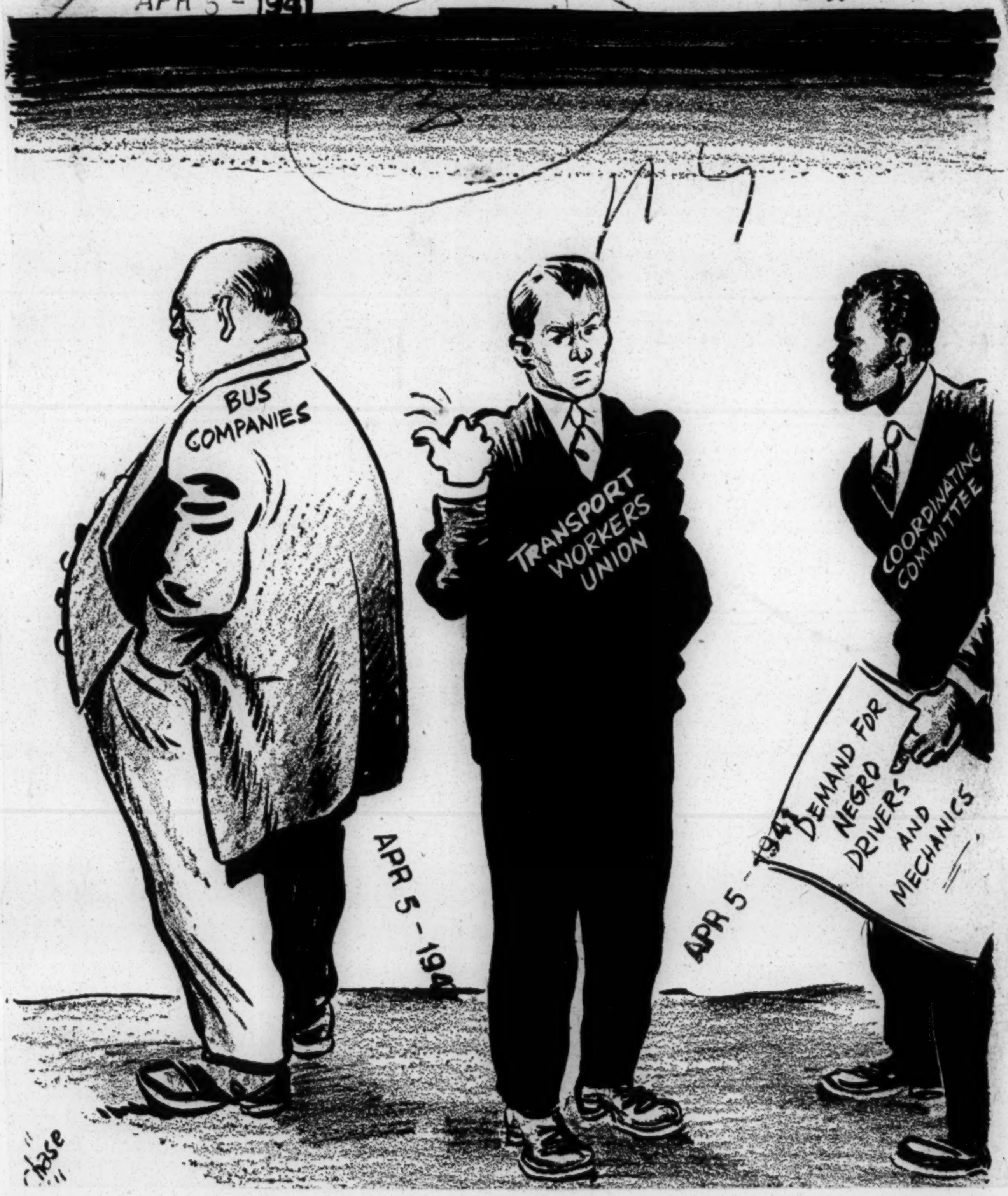
MAR 29 1941

Officials at the Fifth Avenue Coach Company declined to make any comment, asserting that nothing could be said for publication without approval of the board of directors. Meanwhile, the fight goes on to get Negroes on the job as drivers and mechanics, with the public developing an increasing interest in the campaign. As we see it, the union has tossed the "baby" into the laps of the operators. Union officials say they will accept any Negro as a member, that the operators see fit to employ. That, it would seem to us, straightens out at least one phase of the matter. We await the next step, and apparently it must come from the companies.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

"He's The Man To See!"

APR 5 - 1941



APR 5 - 1941

APR 5 - 1941

APR 5 - 1941

NY

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HARLEM UNION HEADS ORDERED SUSPENDED

'Clean-Up' of Building Service Employes Is Pressed

The campaign to "clean up" the Building Service Employes International Union moved forward yesterday with an announcement that William L. McFetridge, international president of the union, had ordered the suspension of all officers of the Harlem local of the A. F. of L. affiliate.

Mr. McFetridge, who succeeded George Scalise as head of the organization after Scalise had gone to jail for looting the union treasury, sent a letter to J. Cyril Fullerton, executive manager of Local 32-H, with 1,000 members in Harlem, notifying him that the suspensions were to become effective tomorrow.

George West, an international representative, was deputized by Mr. McFetridge to administer the local's affairs during its period of reorganization. The reorganization was recommended by a special committee of three appointed to study conditions in all the New York City locals. The committee consists of Arthur S. Meyer, chairman of the State Mediation Board; Thomas Murtha, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and Hugh Robertson, executive manager of Rockefeller Center.

In his letter to Local 32-H, Mr. McFetridge directed that the local constitution be redrawn to make it acceptable to the membership at large, that abuses noted by the investigating committee be abolished and that the functions of the Union be conducted in a democratic and business-like manner.

JUL 6 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

YOUNG HOUSEWIFE FIRST LAW VICTIM OF BUS JOB DRIVE

APR 1 2 1941

By MORGEN S. JENSEN
(Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, April 10—Waging a determined fight to seat Negro operators in the cabs of buses and Negro mechanics in the bus repair shops, three Harlem organizations are continuing their picketing of certain bus lines with both men and women carrying signs imploring the public, "Don't Ride These Buses Until You See Negro Drivers at the Wheel."

A local weekly newspaper last week stated that the bus company had agreed to employ 210 Negroes. This was emphatically denied by the Negro groups which are seeking representation, as evidenced by their printed throwaways reading, "Bus Strike Is Not Settled! No Agreement Has Been Made With Either the Bus Corporation Or the Transport Workers' Union. Headlines Are Misleading. Keep Walking, Talking, Fighting."

GROUPS MERGE FOR FIGHT

According to the Greater New York Co-Ordinating Committee, the National Negro Congress and the Harlem Labor Union, which have merged temporarily into one organization called the United Bus Strike Committee, victory, while not yet at hand, is just around the corner, if race-conscious Harlemites extend 100 per cent co-operation.

APR 1 2 1941

Several encouraging conferences have been held among the United Bus Strike Committee, represented by the Rev. Adam C. Powell, Hope Stevens and Roger Straughn; the Transport Workers' Union representatives, John Santos, Michael Quill, Austin Hogan and Atty Harry Sacher, and the bus companies, represented by John A. Ritchie and John A. McCarthy. It was expected that a final agreement would be presented at a huge mass meeting scheduled for Tuesday night, April 8, at the Golden Gate Ballroom, 142nd street and Lenox avenue.

HOUSEWIFE ARRESTED

While officials of the United Bus Strike Committee did not divulge what was the greatest stumbling block in their attempt to integrate Negro workers into bus jobs, unusually reliable sources hinted that there were two major issues; first, the question of seniority of certain white eligibles who now are unemployed, and, secondly, whether or not so-called secondary jobs would be acceptable should positions as operators not be available.

Mrs. Helen Harris, 25-year-old housewife, of 18 W. 119th street, last week became the first legal victim of the Bus-Jobs-for-Negroes drive, when she was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. According to Atty. Harrison S. Jackson, chief counsel for the United Bus Strike Committee, Mrs. Harris and some of her church friends strolled down to the corner of 135th street and Lenox avenue, after attending a mass meeting at the Golden Gate Ballroom.

A bus with windows allegedly already broken pulled up alongside the chatting ~~women~~. A policeman ordered Mrs. Harris to "move on." When she seemingly didn't most fast enough to suit the ofifcer, he is said to have struck her with his night stick and then placed her under arrest. Placed under $500 bond, the case was adjourned until April 8, after Mrs. Harris was accused of having thrown a stick at the bus.

PRIVATE CAR OWNERS FACE CHARGES

The United Bus Strike Committee vehemently denied that it was responsible for any vandalism leveled against the buses in operation. A few Harlem youngsters, none of whom was apprehended, had been accused of hurling foreign objects at some of the buses.

A few owners of private automobiles have been summoned to court, charged with hacking without license. They were accused of "stealing" possible passengers from buses, in an effort to educate the public against riding in the lily-white vehicles until Negroes are hired. The private car owners claimed there was no charge for service, the United Bus Strike Committee furnishing necessary gas and oil. However, it was pointed out that there was no law against occupants of private automobiles giving "donations" to the drivers.

APR 1 2 1941

The United Bus Strike Committee claims that it has signed up some 800 Negro chauffeurs and mechanics, awaiting a call to work with the bus companies. Harlemites, therefore, are anxiously looking forward to the expected signing of a final ogreement which will provide bus jobs for Negroes.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

ACCEPT PLAN OF UNION TO PROVIDE WORK

APR 5 - 1941

T.W.U. Must Waive Seniority Rights of Ex-employees. Officials Say

APR 5 - 1941

Harlemites this week saw victory in sight for Negroes as bus drivers and mechanics on the city's bus lines when President J. A. Ritchie of the New York City Omnibus Company agreed to put Negroes to work as chauffeurs and shop mechanics, if the Transport Workers Union waives the seniority rights of more than 300 former bus employees on the waiting list to be re-hired, according to the United Negro Bus Strike Committee.

APR 5 - 1941

Several conferences between the Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., co-chairman of the Greater New York Coordinating Committee; Roger Straughn, president of the Harlem Labor Union, and Attorney Hope R. Stevens, local president of the National Negro Congress, representing the United Negro Strike Committee, were held last week with President Ritchie of the bus company and President Quill of the Transport Workers Union.

Last Thursday afternoon during a Conference in his office with a committee representing a citizens committee Mr. Ritchie stated that on a basis of population Negroes are entitled to 210 employees, and that there are only 32 at present in the company's employ. He said he is willing to cooperate and would like nothing better than to see Negroes get more jobs.

APR 5 - 1941

When told that Mr. Quill had told members of the same committee that he was willing to agree to the bus company hiring one Negro for every white driver it hired, Mr. Ritchie said that the program was all right with him. He added that if the union would agree he would hire only Negroes until the full quoto of 210 were employed.

Mr. Quill and other officials of the union quickly met the challenge thrown down by Mr. Ritchie, and submitted the bus company's memorandum to the union's lawyer, Harry Sacher, it was said. Mr. Quill promised to do everything in his power to put Negroes to work on the buses and in shops, and said he would give the decision of the union before the end of the week.

In the meantime, Harlem rallied to the cause of jobs for Negroes on the buses by pressing the picket campaign with greater vigor. A packed and jammed Abyssinian Baptist Church auditorium of more than 2,000 persons of both races backed the bus picket campaign at a huge mass meeting Monday night. The "on to victory" rally was sponsored by the United Negro Bus Strike Committee.

The picket drive got the full-fledged backing of Henry Armstrong, thrice-crowned champion boxer, who declared: "I've just begun to fight. I have come to learn that unity makes power, and this bus discriminiation is just a minor obstacle in the path to what we're trying to attain. We as American citizens have given with the rest of them. All we're demanding now are equal rights and equal opportunities.

APR 5 - 1941

"I want to tell you that I won three titles in the ring, but that wasn't anything to what I am going to do in this fight."

"We can't lose this fight, because we must win," Attorney Hope Stevens declared. "If we win this fight and put Negroes on the buses, we open the door to jobs for Negroes in all public utilities."

Warning the white race against indifference in the struggle of Negroes for jobs, the Rev. Powell, Jr., shouted: "The way America is rolling on, it's going to be just a few days until all strikes and all picket lines are illegal. I tell you, this is the hour of destiny. And I say to the white people of the struggling masses, if you let these black people of mine go down, you're going to perish too."

APR 5 - 1941

Other speakers included Roger Straughn, Harlem Labor Union president; Miss Fredi Washington, secretary of the Negro Actors Guild; Joe Jefferson, Chicago labor leader; Attorney Harrison S. Jackson, Glester Hinds, and J. A. Parris,

---

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle. Washington

Union Bars Negro From Camp Job

New York, N. Y.—An affidavit to theeffect that he was barred from employment as a mason at Camp Edwards near Bourne, Mass., by local No. 39, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasters' union, A. F. of L., has been filed with the N. A. A. C. P. by Fred N. Jones.

The N. A. A. C. P. has relayed the affidavit of Mr. Jones to the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers in Washington, D. C., stating "the refusal to admit Mr. Jones to the union has deprived him of the opportunity to work at Camp Edwards" and "deprives Mr. Jones, and other qualified Negroes, of their right to work solely because of their race and color."

Mr. Jones' affidavit states:

"I went to the union meeting that night, October 1, 1940, and told the executive who met me that I wished to join the union in order to get work at Camp Edwards. He asked me if I had $25 as a first payment toward the membership fe. I told him yes. I gave him the $25 and he gave me a reciept there for. The union executive thereupon went into the meeting telling me it would be over at quarter past nine, p. m.

"The meeting was not over till ten minutes past ten, p. m., and when the executive came out, he told six other men, who were standing outside with me, all of whom were white, to report at Camp Edwards for work the following morning. He gave me back my money saying he had not time to talk and shut the door in my face."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Bus Job Rally Links Economic Fight To Drive for Peace

APR 1 1 1941

Large Rally Cheers Powerful Struggle in Harlem; Company Admits Losing 60,000 Riders Daily; Audience Backs Full Boycott Demands

APR 1 1 1941 APR 1 1 1941

By Eugene Gordon

By boycotting and picketing buses in that area, the people of Harlem, through their organizations, are making progress in the fight for jobs from the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corp. Sixty thousand community people boycott the buses everyday and the companies losing $3,000 every 24 hours.

That much was admitted recently by John A. Ritchie himself in a conference with representatives of the United Negro Bus Strike Committee, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., told a mass meeting of pickets and their supporters in the Golden Gate Ballroom Tuesday night.

John A. Ritchie is chairman of the boards of directors of both bus companies.

Mr. Powell is chairman of the strike committee, the other members of which are Hope Stevens, president of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, and Roger Straughn, head of the Harlem Labor Union.

LOSE 60,000 RIDERS

Annoyed, and not a little worried, over the loss of 60,000 nickels every 24 hours, Ritchie and his associates are trying to plug up these holes in the companies' coin boxes. Making promises to the United Negro Bus Strike Committee seems to be one way of seeking to keep 60,000 lost riders from multiplying.

But all promises must hereatfer be put in writing, in strictly legal form, the committee has agreed. The crowd roared its sanction Tuesday night when Powell declared that a legal document is already being drawn up calling for employment of 70 Negro mechanics and the "selection of 100 Negro bus drivers."

APR 1 1 1941

"Picketing won't stop until this document has been signed by all parties concerned," Powell shouted, adding that once picketing stopped the conference with the companies' representatives would stop.

Hope for employment of Negroes on the buses springs from the fact that the new contract between the Transport Workers Union and the companies provdes for taking on more than 200 new men. Harlem is demanding that some of these men be Negroes. The Transport Workers Union is supporting this demand.

PLEDGE FIGHT TO WIN

From the moment of the opening prayer, when a Negro minister cried, "Father, we come to do business in thy name," to the shouted pledge from 5,000 throats at the close that they would never ride the buses again until victory was won, Tuesday night's mass meeting was an extraordinary affair.

The last previous meeting, held two weeks ago in Abyssinian Baptist Church, had marked the highest point of enthusiasm up to that time in Harlem's long campaign for jobs and a decent life. Spectators then spoke awesomely of the 2,000 in attendance. There were 3,000 additional last Tuesday. Plans are already under way for perhaps twice 5,000 in an outdoor place in the near future.

The meeting opened with greetings and pledges of support from churches, welfare organizations and trade unions. The Golden Gate Ballroom management was thanked for giving free use of that auditorium. Heads of all people's organizations were invited to seats on the platform. So were such of the pickets as had particularly distinguished themselves—for instance, 86-year-old Mrs. Julia Anderson, who has not missed a day on the line since picketing began.

Henry Armstrong, retired boxing champion, was unable to be present, as scheduled, but somebody was on hand to pledge his financial support.

SCREEN STAR SPEAKS

The Noted Screen and stage actress, Fredie Washington, said she was particularly interested in women's past in the job campaign.

"Worry!" a woman shouted from the audience when Miss Washington asked why Negro women grew old so early.

Yes, the actress agreed; worry, and hard work at poor wages. Thousands of women shouted approval as she called on them to "support the picketing 100 per cent."

Miss Washington aroused enthusiasm also when she told the audience that 2,000 persons at the Randall's Island peace meeting last Saturday walked back across the bridge in the rain when told that the Negro people were boycotting the buses for jobs.

There was further applause when a letter was read from Dr. Walter Scott Neff, executive secretary of the New York Council, American Peace Mobilization, pledging support and calling attention to APM's picketing of hotels which had discriminated against Negroes.

"We're committed to carry on this fight until we have hundreds of Negroes working on buses, on the IRT, in the gas and electric light company and in the telephone exchange," Arnold Johnson, Secretary of the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment said.

Roger Straughn, president of the Harlem Labor Union, declared, "Victory is too near to turn back now."

Hope Stevens, of the National Negro Congress, invited the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League, the YM and the YWCA, the college sororities and fraternities, fraternal organizations, churches, the Republican, Democratic, Communist, Socialist "and all other political parties" to join the United Negro Bus Strike Committee in this fight for jobs and for a better life."

His call for a "monster job parade in Harlem" was also approved by Mr. Powell, who took occasion at the same time to condemn the "Bundles for Britain" movement in Harlem.

"Bundles for Britain," he said scornfully, "from people whose roots are away back there in the land made red with blood from Britain's imperialism."

Before the meeting closed it had definitely assumed the healthiest aspects of a rally against war and against all the evils from which the masses of the people in general and from which the people of Harlem particularly have suffered for years.

"Harlem is tired of being shoved around," one of the speakers said. "And Harlem is going to do something about it."

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Harlem Celebrates Negro Bus Victory

APR 25 1941

The United Negro Bus Association, 132 W. 138 St., New York City, representing hundreds of Negro and white organizations who have fought together for the past four weeks for Negro bus drivers and mechanics will hold a gigantic victory parade in Harlem, New York city, on Saturday, April 26 at 1 o'clock.

For four weeks the United Negro Bus Assn. composed of three delegates each from the Harlem Labor Union, the National Negro Congress and Greater N. Y. Coordinating Committee whose names are Clayton Pawell, Jr., Arnold Johnson, Harrison Jackson, Roger Straughn, Dr. Cyril P. Ollivierre, Hope Stevens, A. J. Jahnson, Audley Moore and Naomi Kornacker have waged a historic battle for Negro bus drivers and mechanics in the Fifth Ave. Coach Co. and N. Y. City Omnibus Corporation.

This battle came to a close when an agreement was signed between the duly authorized representatives of the Transport Workers' Union, the bus corporation and the United Negro Bus Assn. on Friday, April 18.

APR 25 1941

The agreement which was drawn up by Counsellors Harrison Jackson and Hope Stevens calls for immediate employment as the need arises of 70 Negroes in the maintenance division, of 100 Negroes in the bus drivers' division. No member of any other race can be employed until this 170 has been employed. After that there will be an employment of one Negro for each white until 17% of the working group is Negro — this means over 500 of the 3,000 odd employees of the bus company will eventually be Negro workers.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Expect Negro Bus Drivers Within Next Two Months

APR 19 1941

APR 19 1941

Moving nearer toward victory in the fight for jobs on New York City buses, the Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., co-chairman of the United Negro Bus Strike Committee, on Wednesday told The Amsterdam Star-News that the agreement submitted to the New York City Omnibus Company, which has been endorsed by the Transport Workers Union, has been accepted almost entirely. He said that the "actual signing of the agreement," whereby Negroes will be hired as chauffeurs on the buses and put to work as mechanics in the shops, will be signed sometime this week.

In the statement issued on behalf of his colleagues, Attorney Hope Stevens. local president of the National Negro Congress, and Roger Straughn, president of the Harlem Labor Union, the Rev. Mr. Powell, Jr., declared:

"The United Negro Bus Strike Committee wishes to state that the agreement submitted to the bus corporation, with the approval of the Transport Workers Union, has been accepted almost entirely. The actual signing of the agreement will take place sometime this week. The bus company will choose immediately the first group of drivers and place them in training —a period of from four to six weeks."

APR 19 1941

According to the Rev. Mr. Powell, Jr., more than 100 Negroes will get jobs as bus drivers and 70 will go into the shops as mechanics because the new contracts providing shorter hours, vacations and holidays and two additional franchises to be granted by the city, will enable the bus company to put about 300 men to work. In the agreement, 94 white employees, whose seniority rights must be recognized by the Transport Workers Union, will be put back to work before Negroes will be hired. Within two months, the bus strike spokesman said, Negroes will be manning the wheels of the buses throughout New York City.

In the meantime, plans are being made for a monster open air "victory" mass meeting at Colonial Park, 145th Street and Bradhurst Avenue, Saturday, April 26, at 4 p. m. J. A. Ritchie, president of the Omnibus Company and Michael Quill, international president of the Transport Workers Union, have been invited to be among the chief speakers, the Rev. Mr. Powell declared.

APR 19 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

BUS PICKETS CALLED OFF

APR 26 1941

New Group Makes Picket Threat As Committee Signs Contract

The picketing of Harlem buses, under way since March 10th, came to an end Saturday when pickets were withdrawn after signing of a contract which eventually will create jobs for 70 Negroes in the maintenance division and 100 others in the bus drivers division.

Although the United Negro Bus Association (formerly the United Negro Bus Strike Committee) hailed the contract as a "victory" and made plans for a victory mass meeting and parade to be held Saturday at Colonial Park, 148th street and Bradhurst avenue, there are indications that several groups affiliated with the picketing are not satisfied at the outcome and intend to take action shortly.

The contract was signed Saturday noon at the bus company's office, by John A. Ritchie and John E. McCarthy for the bus companies; Michael Quill and Austin Horgan for the Transport Workers Union, and Arnold Johnson, Roger Straughn, Dr. Cyril P. Ollivierre and Hope Stevens for the strikers. The Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, and one of the members of the three-man board of strategy heading the fight, signed the contract on Friday, a day ahead of the others because he was leaving for a short vacation.

Under terms of the contract drawn up by Attorneys Hope Stevens and Harrison Jackson, Negroes will be employed after the 97 white bus drivers now on the union's waiting list are given employment. The agreement, according to Attorney Jackson, general counsel of the United Negro Bus Association, calls for immediate employment as the need arises of 70 Negroes in the maintenance division, of 100 Negroes in the bus drivers division. No member of any other race can be employed until this 170 has been employed. After that there will be an employment of one Negro for each white until 17 per cent of the working group is Negro.

APR 26 1941

Trouble Looming

That there is dissatisfaction with the agreement was revealed Monday when a committee told The New York Age that:

"We are serving an ultimatum on the United Bus Strike Committee, New York Omnibus Co., Fifth Avenue Coach Co., and the Transport Workers Union, that unless we see Negro drivers driving buses throughout Harlem within the next month, ending May 30 the committee will reopen picketing of bus lines until we do see Negro drivers driving the buses."

The committee was composed of Carlos Cook, captain of the Advance Division UNIA; Hiram C. Wheatle, president, 5-Boro Real Estate Association; Harold Ford, Federation of Street Speakers, and Glester Hinds, Deputy Commission of the UNIA, who is given credit as having been the originator of the bus strike.

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Two Major Bus Lines in N.Y. to Hire Negroes As Chauffers and Mechanics

APR 24 1941

New York, (By Ernest E. Johnson for ANP)—The bus strike is won. Pickets ceased their parading at noon Friday with the signing of a tri-partite agreement, the first such contract of its kind, guaranteeing the employment of at least 170 Negroes as chauffeurs and shop mechanics on the two major omnibus lines in New York City, with the added possibility of this number increasing to 500.

Signatures on this very important document, called by many the "magna charter" for Negro labor terminated a four week struggle to open up avenues of employment in one of the utilities heretofore always a field steadfast in its refusal of jobs to Negroes.

The contract was signed by John A. Ritchie, president of both the Fifth Avenue Coach company and the New York Omnibus corporation; Michael Quill and Austin Hogan, international and local presidents, respectively, of the Transport Workers Union of America and (CIO); and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., Hopo R. Stevens and Roger Straughn for the new Negro Bus Association.

Gets Credit

To Harrison S. Jackson, counsel to the bus association, goes the credit for drafting this notable instrument containing the essential and basic demands originally put forth by this group to the operating companies and only slightly modified during the weeks of negotiation. Atty. Jackson, author of the 125th Street Coordinating agreement that affected Negro employment in that important section, is the only Negro lawyer in this state at present holding the degree of doctor of juridical science.

The signed agreement includes the following obligations:

The affiliated bus companies shall employ 100 Negros as chauffeurs as soon as a seniority list of 91 whites is absorbed. From private but reliable sources it has been learned that this list will be quickly taken up due to the expected granting of franchises for two new lines in other sections of the city, as well as the reduction of the present 10-hour day to eight hours.

In the shops where there is an immediate shortage, up to 70 Negroes will be hired exclusively as the need develops. Already a call has bee made for four diesel engine mechanics an applicant for which was said to be enroute from Detroit to fill one of these jobs. His pay will begin at $1.12 per hour. The companies are installing additional diesel engines in their buses which will require skilled mechanics in this work.

APR 24 1941

After these 170 men have been employed, all other vacancies developing in the operating division will be filled at the ration of one Negro for every white, alternately, until a total representing 17 percent of the companies' personnel, or 510 persons, are Negroes.

Ten men will start immediate training, a four to six weeks process, for the operation of the buses. This training is given in a manner similar to instructions for the driving of private vehicles.

APR 24 1941

The union has agreed that all Negroes employed by the operating companies shall be admitted to membership on an equal basis with white employes and shall be accorded full rights and privileges in the union.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Get Pledge of Aid By Union Officials

MAR 29 1941

(See Editorial)

Harlem girded its loins this week for "a fight to the finish" against the bus companies in a community-wide drive for jobs for Negroes as chauffeurs and mechanics, with the support of the powerful Transport Workers Union, which, through its president, Michael Quill, pledged "all-out aid" in the Negro job campaign.

The smouldering embers of dissatisfaction over the policy of exclusion of Negroes from top jobs on the bus lines burst into flames of community-wide protest and agitation with the 11-day bus strike. The Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment immediately demanded the employment of 200 Negro chauffeurs and 200 mechanics on all bus lines.

MAR 29 1941

Opening the job drive last Friday night with a torchlight parade and mass meeting at Metropolitan Baptist Church at which several speakers discussed the plight of the Negro and the result of job-discrimination in New York City, the organization got to work and forced President Quill to confer with a delegation from the Coordinating Committee Monday.

The campaign reached its climax Monday night at a huge job rally and mass meeting in Abyssinian Baptist Church, where and when the strategy of the campaign was mapped and a boycott movement started.

The Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church and co-chairman of the Coordinating Committee said: "You stayed off buses for 11 days so that white men might have a better standard of living. Now we are asking that you stay off the buses so that the black man may have a decent standard of living also. It may be longer than 11 days. It may be 11 years. But by the Grace of God and the power of the mass, one day a black boy is going to roll a bus up Seventh Avenue."

The packed auditorium of more than 1,000 eager Harlemites roared approval when a representative of the Transport Workers Union, M. H. Forge, editor of The Transport Bulletin, affirmed the declaration of President Quill made earlier in the day that the "union stands squarely behind the demand of the Negroes for jobs on the bus lines."

MAR 29 1941

He said that the union has no control of the hiring of workers, but that if, as and when Negroes are employed by the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Company the union will issue union books to white and Negro alike, so long as the worker's record is a clean one and has never been involved in scab work.

Mr. Quill not only disavowed any discrimination against the Negro, but called upon the Negro to join hands with the union in its fight against the Board of Transportation and Commissioners Delaney, Sullivan and Keegan, and Mayor LaGuardia, because of their fight against promotions for Negroes in the unified subway system. Mr. Quill said that Commissioner Delaney has withheld all promotions of Negroes for more than four months despite the demands of the union, and that the matter will reach a head when mass picketing of the mayor's office and the offices of the Board of Transportation gets in full swing.

In launching the campaign to boycott and picket the bus lines, beginning Tuesday afternoon at all Harlem cross streets, the Rev. Powell, Jr., declared: "Beginning tomorrow every Negro that rides on a bus is lynching the Negro race. But don't be hard on any Negroes you see on the buses this week. By next Monday, if there are still people who have not seen the light yet, then convert them — one way or another."

MAR 29 1941

Plans for an effective strike announced by the Rev. Mr. Powell, Jr., include picket lines, soup kitchens from which to feed volunteer pickets; an emergency jitney service to substitute for the elegant and comfortable buses and the registration of "every Negro chauffeur and every Negro mechanic who knows a tuning fork from a monkey wrench." The names of registrants will be sent to the bus companies.

In an effort to get a statement from the officials of the bus companies, The Amsterdam Star-News called the office of the New York City Omnibus Company, but was told by a Mr. Francis O'Leary, of the executive offices," that the matter would be placed befor John E. McCarthy, president of the company.

To many Harlemites, the name of Mr. McCarthy recalls to mind the testimony which he gave before the New York State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population in New York City in December, 1937. At that time, Mr. McCarthy was vice-president and general manager of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and his testimony was shot through with prejudiced and evasive replies, and it is believed unlikely that he has changed his attitude on the employment of Negroes on the transit lines.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

GROUPS URGE NEGRODRIVERS BE GIVEN JOBS

MAR 22 1941

Harlem Labor Union In Demands For Equal Work Opportunity

MAR 22 1941

Harlemites entered the bus strike this week with a united demand upon the Transport Workers Union, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and the bus companies for the employment of Negroes as bus drivers and mechanics in the shops and terminals, according to action taken by the Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment.

The high point of the drive for jobs on the busses will be reached Friday night when the Harlem Labor Union gathers its strength and marches down the streets of Harlem in a gigantic torchlight parade to Metropolitan Baptist Church, 128th street and 7th avenue, where a mass meeting will be held and prominent citizens will rally the community to a "fight to the finish" for jobs.

Striking at the discriminatory policies of the Transport Workers Union, and urging Mayor LaGuardia and the officials of the bus companies to let down the bars against the Negro, the Harlem Labor Union has named five "action" delegations to put the case for the Negro worker in Harlem before the public.

According to Roger Straughn, president of the union, telegrams to the mayor, Michael Quill and the bus companies have been ignored, but the fight for jobs will continue with even greater vigor with the entry into the struggle of the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment, which has requested the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, the New York City Omnibus Corporation, Mayor LaGuardia and officials of the Transport Workers Union to confer with a delegation of the committee, consisting of the Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church; the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church; Attorney Hope Stevens, Arnold J. Johnson, executive secretary of the committee; and representatives of chauffeur's un[illegible]

MAR 22 1941

The demands of the two Negro job-seeking groups are expressed in requests that adequate provisions be made for the inclusion of Negroes, many of whom are highly experienced as bus drivers and other terminal mechanics and other work, in the new contract to be written and signed by both sides in the dispute, which has tied up bus transportation in Manhattan for nearly two weeks.

Harlem Labor Union pickets are already pacing the streets at several bus stops in Harlem, and the Coordinating Committee has declared its readiness to rally the people of Harlem not to ride on a single Fifth Avenue bus or street bus of the Omnibus Corporation until they see a Negro at the wheel.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Get Pledge of Aid By Union Officials

MAR 29 1941

(See Editorial)

Harlem girded its loins this week for "a fight to the finish" against the bus companies in a community-wide drive for jobs for Negroes as chauffeurs and mechanics, with the support of the powerful Transport Workers Union, which, through its president, Michael Quill, pledged "all-out aid" in the Negro job campaign.

The smouldering embers of dissatisfaction over the policy of exclusion of Negroes from top jobs on the bus lines burst into flames of community-wide protest and agitation with the 11-day bus strike. The Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment immediately demanded the employment of 200 Negro chauffeurs and 200 mechanics on all bus lines.

MAR 29 1941

Opening the job drive last Friday night with a torchlight parade and mass meeting at Metropolitan Baptist Church at which several speakers discussed the plight of the Negro and the result of job-discrimination in New York City, the organization got to work and forced President Quill to confer with a delegation from the Coordinating Committee Monday.

The campaign reached its climax Monday night at a huge job rally and mass meeting in Abyssinian Baptist Church, where and when the strategy of the campaign was mapped and a boycott movement started.

The Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church and co-chairman of the Coordinating Committee said: "You stayed off buses for 11 days so that white men might have a better standard of living. Now we are asking that you stay off the buses so that the black man may have a decent standard of living also. It may be longer than 11 days. It may be 11 years. But by the Grace of God and the power of the mass, one day a black boy is going to roll a bus up Seventh Avenue."

The packed auditorium of more than 1,000 eager Harlemites roared approval when a representative of the Transport Workers Union, M. H. Forge, editor of The Transport Bulletin, affirmed the declaration of President Quill made earlier in the day that the "union stands squarely behind the demand of the Negroes for jobs on the bus lines."

MAR 29 1941

He said that the union has no control of the hiring of workers, but that if, as and when Negroes are employed by the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Company the union will issue union books to white and Negro alike, so long as the worker's record is a clean one and has never been involved in scab work.

Mr. Quill not only disavowed any discrimination against the Negro, but called upon the Negro to join hands with the union in its fight against the Board of Transportation and Commissioners Delaney, Sullivan and Keegan, and Mayor LaGuardia, because of their fight against promotions for Negroes in the unified subway system. Mr. Quill said that Commissioner Delaney has withheld all promotions of Negroes for more than four months despite the demands of the union, and that the matter will reach a head when mass picketing of the mayor's office and the offices of the Board of Transportation gets in full swing.

In launching the campaign to boycott and picket the bus lines, beginning Tuesday afternoon at all Harlem cross streets, the Rev. Powell, Jr., declared: "Beginning tomorrow every Negro that rides on a bus is lynching the Negro race. But don't be hard on any Negroes you see on the buses this week. By next Monday, if there are still people who have not seen the light yet, then convert them — one way or another."

MAR 29 1941

Plans for an effective strike announced by the Rev. Mr. Powell, Jr., include picket lines, soup kitchens from which to feed volunteer pickets; an emergency jitney service to substitute for the elegant and comfortable buses and the registration of "every Negro chauffeur and every Negro mechanic who knows a tuning fork from a monkey wrench." The names of registrants will be sent to the bus companies.

In an effort to get a statement from the officials of the bus companies, The Amsterdam Star-News called the office of the New York City Omnibus Company, but was told by a Mr. Francis O'Leary, of the executive offices," that the matter would be placed befor John E. McCarthy, president of the company.

To many Harlemites, the name of Mr. McCarthy recalls to mind the testimony which he gave before the New York State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population in New York City in December, 1937. At that time, Mr. McCarthy was vice-president and general manager of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and his testimony was shot through with prejudiced and evasive replies, and it is believed unlikely that he has changed his attitude on the employment of Negroes on the transit lines.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

GROUPS URGE NEGRODRIVERS BE GIVEN JOBS

MAR 22 1941

Harlem Labor Union In Demands For Equal Work Opportunity

357

MAR 22 1941

Harlemites entered [illegible] bus strike this week with a united demand upon the Transport Workers Union, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and the bus companies for the employment of Negroes as bus drivers and mechanics in the shops and terminals, according to action taken by the Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment.

The high point of the drive for jobs on the busses will be reached Friday night when the Harlem Labor Union gathers its strength and marches down the streets of Harlem in a gigantic torchlight parade to Metropolitan Baptist Church, 128th street and 7th avenue, where a mass meeting will be held and prominent citizens will rally the community to a "fight to the finish" for jobs.

Striking at the discriminatory policies of the Transport Workers Union, and urging Mayor LaGuardia and the officials of the bus companies to let down the bars against the Negro, the Harlem Labor Union has named five "action" delegations to put the case for the Negro worker in Harlem before the public.

According to Roger Straughn, president of the union, telegrams to the mayor, Michael Quill and the bus companies have been ignored, but the fight for jobs will continue with even greater vigor with the entry into the struggle of the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment, which has requested the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, the New York City Omnibus Corporation, Mayor LaGuardia and officials of the Transport Workers Union to confer with a delegation of the committee, consisting of the Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church; the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church; Attorney Hope Stevens, Arnold J. Johnson, executive secretary of the committee; and representatives of chauffeur's un

MAR 22 1941

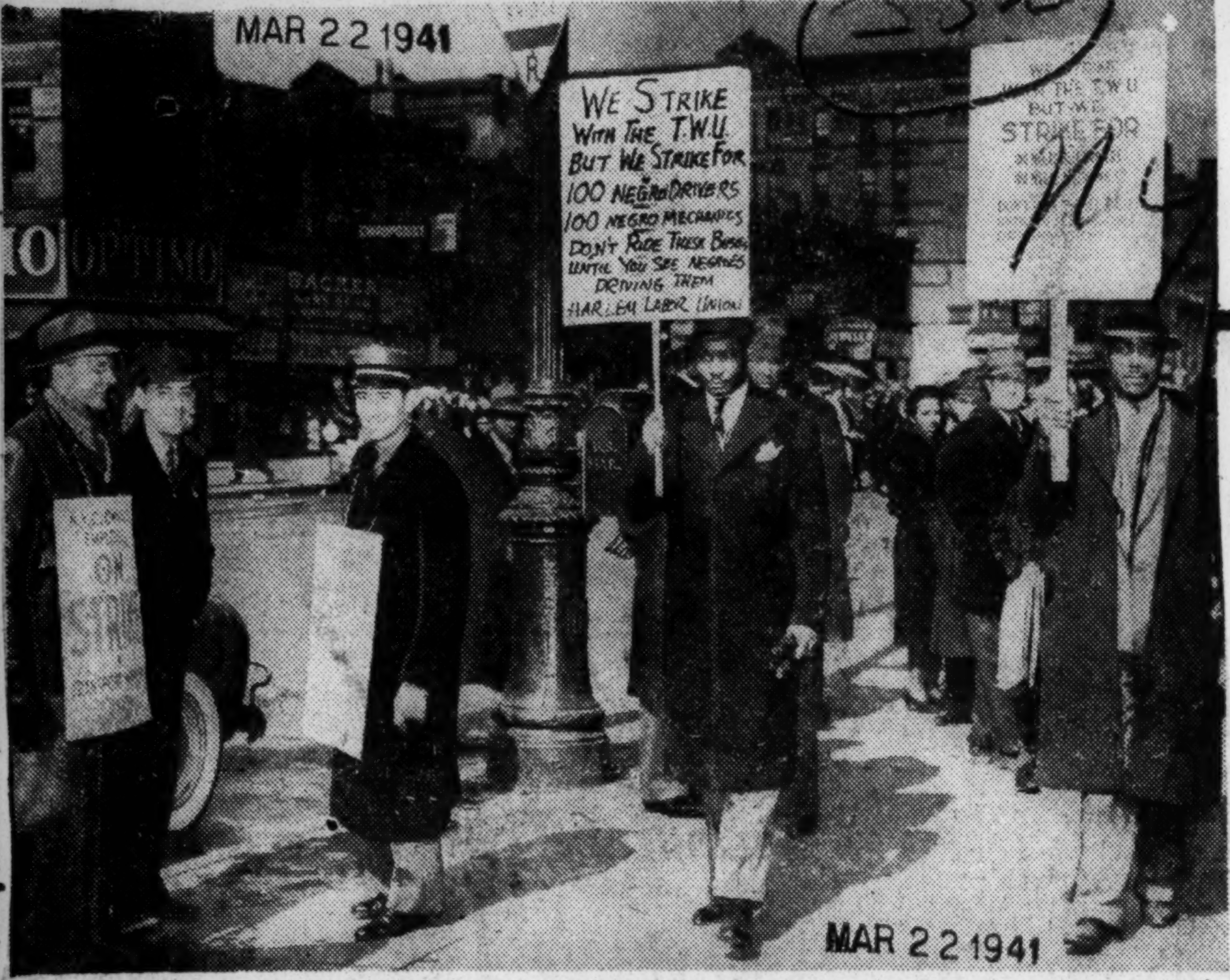
The demands of the two Negro job-seeking groups are expressed in requests that adequate provisions be made for the inclusion of Negroes, many of whom are highly experienced as bus drivers and terminal mechanics and other work, in the new contract to be written and signed by both sides in the dispute, which has tied up bus transportation in Manhattan for nearly two weeks.

Harlem Labor Union pickets are already pacing the streets at several bus stops in Harlem, and the Coordinating Committee has declared its readiness to rally the people of Harlem not to ride on a single Fifth Avenue bus or street bus of the Omnibus Corporation until they see a Negro at the wheel.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

LABOR UNION ENTERS BUS FIGHT

MAR 22 1941


WE STRIKE WITH THE T.W.U. BUT WE STRIKE FOR 100 NEGRO DRIVERS 100 NEGRO MECHANICS DON'T RIDE THESE BUSES UNTIL YOU SEE NEGROES DRIVING THEM HARLEM LABOR UNION
STRIKE FOR
ON STRIKE

MAR 22 1941

Members of the Harlem Labor Union are shown here picketing in the fight to get Negro drivers on the buses. Members of the Transport Workers Union have been on strike since last week.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Asks President To Place Negroes On Mediation Board

MAR 29 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Urging the president to name a Negro as one of the 11 persons of the mediation board he proposed to select, the local NAACP addressed a letter to that effect and forwarded it last week, saying:

"Predominantly a member of the working class, the interests of the Negro, numbering 13,000,000 of our population, are more largely affected by employer-labor relationships than almost any other segment of our population.

MAR 29 1941

"Choice of a qualified Negro as a member of the proposed mediation board will also contribute materially to the most effective use during the present crisis of this vast reservoir of man power".

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Performers Join Fight For Drivers

APR 5 - 1941

Mobilizing the strength of the theatrical profession behind the current fight to secure jobs for Negroes as bus drivers, a committee of outstanding professionals headed by Fredi Washington, of screen, stage and radio fame, appealed this week to all members of the profession to join the picketing campaign.

"We are with the United Negro Bus Committee at 132 W. 138th St., and we call on all members of the theatrical profession to join us, beginning this Friday, any time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. for fifteen minutes or more of picket duty," the committee call read.

Professionals interested were also urged by Miss Washington to contact Mr. Ford at committee headquarters in the 138th St. address as soon as possible to register for picket duty.

APR 5 - 1941

Included on the membership of the theatrical division committee are Hazel Scott, Jimmie Lunceford, Canada Lee, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Mordecai, and Eddie Green.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

NEGROES BOYCOTT FORCES NEW YORK BUS CO. TO TERMS

APR 19 1941

NEW YORK CITY.— (ANP) — Five thousand Negroes, hell-bent for jobs with the major bus companies serving Harlem, crowded into the Golden Gate Casino last week and heard their United Bus Strike Committee report the $3,000 in daily losses of revenue have brought the operators to the negotiation table, but that the strikers "intend to picket on this side until hell freezes." Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of Abyssinia Baptist Church, and one of the three co-chairmen of the committee, told the eager audience that the following events had transpired and demands made during the past 14 days of the struggle.

That John A. Ritchie, president of both the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York Omnibus Corp., after a steadfast refusal to acknowledge the repeated requests of the committee for a conference, called in the representatives and admitted the mounting losses. Because of this fac. he is willing to employ 211 Negro busmen and mechanics if the Transport Workers Union can be appeased.

APR 19 1941

That conferenceswith the TWU officials succeeded in paring a seniority list of 400 chauffeurs awaiting jobs to 94 men who had part-time work in the past two or three years; and that as soon as these men are placed the next 100 men would have to be Negroes.

To 70 Negroes Immediate Jobs

That inasmuch as there is no seniority or waiting list for shop mechanics, 70 Negroes be given immediate employment in this category and that 100 others be immediately selected and placed into training as bus drivers, a process that requires from four to six weeks.

That agreement embodying these several terms shall be contained in a contract signed by properly authorized representatives of the bus companies, the union and the committee, and having the full weight of law behind it.

APR 19 1941

That the word, "permanent" shall preface the present name of the United Bus Strike Committee indicating thereby that the group shall not be abandoned with the signing of the document but shall remain in existence, as required by law, to act in court should at some time in the future the contract is violated.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

BUS CO. HIRES MECHANIC AIDS

MAY 3 - 1941

Organization Cancels Victory Celebration Through "Red" Fear

MAY 3 - 1941

Developments this week in the hiring of Negroes on New York City bus lines as reported by Joe Ford of the United Negro Bus Association include the sending of about 30 chauffeurs to the New York City Omnibus Company's headquarters at 605 West 132nd street, and the actual employment of 5 Negroes as mechanic helpers in maintenance shops.

According to Arnold P. Johnson and Mr. Ford, the men referred to the bus company must be thoroughly investigated and examined before they are accepted and sent to the training school for drivers. The work of supplying the men from the association's headquarters, 132 West 138th street, proceeding apace, it was said.

In the meantime, the high command of the strike committee was said in reliable quarters to have taken the bull by the horns to check raids by so-called Communist elements who have attempted to steal the show and claim the glory for "the victory over the bus companies."

This move was made on Monday at a conference at headquarters, when it was decided to call off the "victory parade and mass meeting" scheduled to be held Saturday at Colonial Park, 145th street, when officials of the Transport Workers Union, Harlem leaders and a representative of the bus company would address Harlem citizens.

351-1941
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NEW YORK

EXPECT AGREEMENT IN NEW YORK BUS STRIKE

Employment Of Race Men As Drivers Seen

APR 9 1941

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Tri-partite agreement among the United Bus Strike committee, Transport Workers union and the two operating bus companies, guaranteeing the employment of Negroes as drivers and mechanics was expected to be announced this week at a mass meeting called by the strike committee.

APR 9 1941

In the first press conference called to discuss the fight, a committee spokesman announced that negotiations had almost reached the point whereby terms might be reduced to contract form with the signatures of the various parties. While the spokesman would not indicate the point causing the impasse, the frequency of meetings with union representatives pointed to the possibility that difficulty is being met in that quarter rather than with the Fifth Avenue Coach company and the New York Omnibus Corp. If this be true, the general feeling is that the union has presented the problem of seniority rights for some of its members now unemployed and awaiting vacancies.

APR 9 1941

The case of Mrs. Helen Harris, charged with disorderly conduct in connection with the violence that broke out during the height of the protests, was postponed for hearing until Wednesday in magistrate's court.

In conferences last week with the committee, John A. Ritchie, president of the Fifth Avenue Coach company and president and board chairman of the New York City Omnibus Corp., promised to hire 210 Negroes if the Transport Workers union found no objection. Ritchie's figure is based upon population estimates.

NO OBJECTIONS

APR 9 1941

Michael J. Quill, international president of the union, replied that his union had no objections to the employment of Negroes on buses so long as those hired became union members and so long as due consideration is given for the seniority rights of some 300 white men now unemployed through a lay-off last year. Efforts to work out differences with the TWU are now under way.

APR 9 1941

Meanwhile, street disorders flared sporadically in Harlem in spite of efforts of more rational leaders to curb violence on the part of the more zealous pickets and sympathizers.

While arrests have been held to a minimum, certain damage is being done to many of the buses rolling through the streets and the expectation that New York may experience another incident such as the riots of March, 1935 have caused authorities to place extra details along the main thoroughfares of the area.

12-DAY STRIKE

These developments come as a sequel to the recent 12-day strike of members of the Transport Workers union that hampered the city's traveling public. At the height of the impasse between union and company officials, the Harlem Labor union swung into action by picketing alongside pickets of the TWU at various locations is Harlem.

Entry of the Manhattan council of the National Negro congress and the Greater New York Coordinating committee into the dispute soon resulted in the formation among the three groups of the United Negro Bus Strike committee. It is this committee that is now prosecuting the struggle to the hilt for employment of Negroes.

APR 9 1941

At last Monday night's mass meeting held in Abyssinia, a packed church saw and heard Henry Armstrong, retired ring idol, say he has "only begun to fight, and we shall continue fighting until the battle is won." He dropped $25 into the kitty to help finance this fight. Other speakers of note also whipped the audience into a frenzy in their appeals for united and forceful action.

APR 9 1941

Evidencing the fact that this was not a matter to take lightly Police Commissioner Lewis J Valentino had assigned two emergency trucks, six squad cars and about 30 uniformed patrolmen to the intersection at 135th street and Seventh avenue.

The one arrest reported was that of Mrs. Harris who, according to the colored arresting officer, had thrown a wooden block through the window of a passing bus. Of course, many buses returning to their terminals carried broken windows, indicative of the rising feeling in the community.

APR 9 1941

Appeals by the joint committee asking persons not to ride the buses have been made. Private cars have been voluntarily pressed into service along the main routes. These cars carry little 3x5 white cards in the windows and for the same charge made by the bus companies will carry passengers to their streets. Two arrests have been made for violation of the hack law, but the procedure has not been abandoned.

The Fifth Avenue Coach company and the New York Omnibus corporation had placed the burden for not employing Negroes upon the union, members of which, they say, will not work with them. Union representatives gave the lie to this and cited the fact that many of their members are Negroes and work alongside each other in many capacities on the New York Transit System.

Among the points at issue between the union and the bus companies is the matter of reducing hours of work. The success of this proposal, the union says would compel the companies to hire some 500 additional men in order to maintain proper service Michael Quill, international president of the TWU, is understood to have promised that for every white man hired a Negro will be given work. Should this plan work out, it would mean the employment of approximately 250 Negroes.

APR 9 1941

The union pointed out however, that their contract with the companies does not give them jurisdiction over actual hiring. The stipulation is simply that men employed must within a reasonable time become members of the union. This is what is known as a preferential shop.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

For Community Progress

APR 12 1941

Two movements now going on in Harlem most definitely point to community progress and ought to have the united support of every citizen with an ounce of pride. We refer to the efforts of the Permanent United Bus Strike Committee and of the Consolidated Housewives League.

We see in the campaign of both groups the much needed drive to secure more employment for Negroes and to bring about greater cooperation between the merchants of 125th Street and other parts of Harlem with Negro cosumers and Negro enterprises.

The Amsterdam Star-News heartily endorses both of these organizations. We have contributed financial support to the bus strike committee and have given liberally of space for publicizing the fight. Regardless of who is responsible for Negroes not being employed as chauffeurs and mechanics on buses, we unqualifiedly support the program of the committee in urging Negroes to boycott the buses until they are given jobs. Only by doing this will there ever be any progress in the Harlem community.

APR 12 1941

The failure of local merchants to cooperate with Negro enterprises and to give more employment and offer better merchandise, constitute a major stumbling block in the progress of Harlem.

The stand taken by the Housewives League at their meeting Monday night marks an important step in the life of the community. It took on the aspect of an old fashion revival gathering, with each person taking turns in telling his experiences. These who were not given an opportunity to speak from the platform, spoke to the person nearest him. Their theme song was the same ..."an all-out campaign against unfair and un-cooperative merchants."

In taking a definite stand for better conditions in Harlem the Housewives have the unqualified support of the Amsterdam Star-News. We have campaigned consistently against shortweights, inferior merchandise, and numerous other evils.

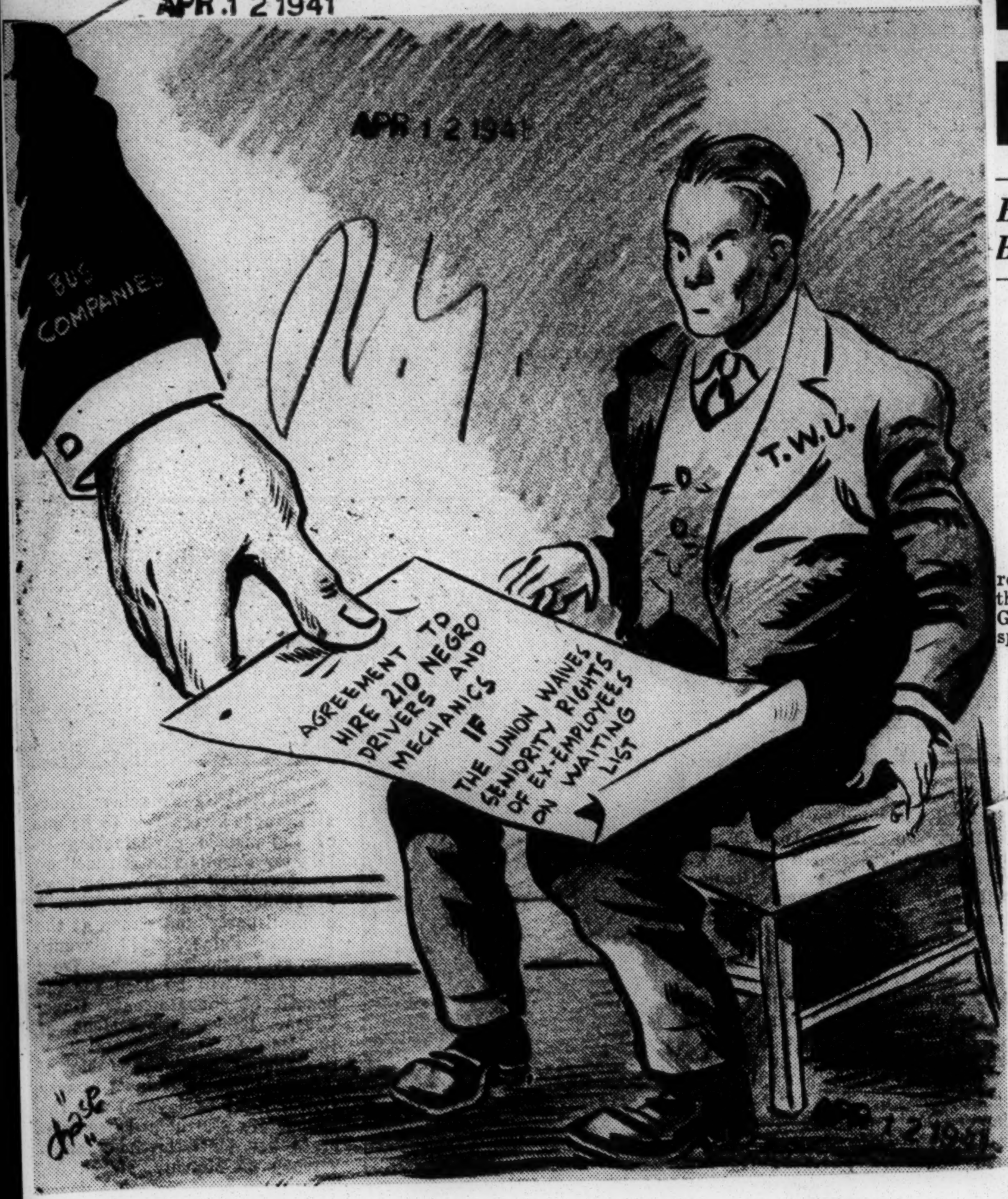
Throughout the course of the evening various speakers flayed Harlem merchants for their failure to provide jobs, and unfair business practices and co-operate with Negro enterprises. As we see it the housewives have a right to be up in arms, because all these condition vitally affect their lives and anything that affects the lives of the housewives automatically affect the entire community. It is therefore, easy to understand why we are solidly behind them. Their fight is just and fair; and besides, with an annual budget of millions of dollars to spend, they are bound to win. We are with them 100 per cent.

APR 12 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Right In His Lap

APR 12 1941


BUS COMPANIES
T.W.U.
AGREEMENT TO HIRE 210 NEGRO DRIVERS AND MECHANICS IF THE UNION WAIVES SENIORITY RIGHTS OF EX-EMPLOYEES ON WAITING LIST
APR 12 1941
"Chase"

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Hope Fades For Negro Chauffeurs

APR 12 1941

Bus Company Executives Stand By Original Proposal To Hire 210

BULLETIN

From unofficial but authentic sources it was learned Wednesday that an agreement, worked out around the positions of both the Omnibus Corporation and the Transport Workers Union on the hiring of Negro drivers is expected to be completed by next Tuesday. J. A. Ritchie, spokesman for the bus company Tuesday repeated his original statement that the company is willing to hire 210 competent Negroes if the TWU will waive seniority rights for its members. From the union headquarters word came that Negroes could be hired only after 94 union members, now on leave but holding priority rights, were rehired.

APR 12 1941

More than 5,000 backers of the Harlem bus boycott movement roared approval of the leadership and success of the strike against the New York City Omnibus Company Tuesday night in the Golden Gate Ballroom, 143rd Street and Lenox Avenue, as speaker after speaker declared the drive for jobs a "holy cause and crusade."

"This is Holy Week," declared the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, "and it is an admirable time to put religion into pratcice. The holiest thing that you can do is to love thy neighbor as thyself. If we win this fight there is no doubt that we will win the rest."

APR 12 1941

Castigating the preachers, whom he described as "the people whom you keep fat," and the so-called big-shots of Harlem for their indifference in the present struggle for jobs for Negroes on the buses, the Rev. Adam Powell, Jr., co-chairman of the bus strike committee, shouted: "We must increase the momentum of this drive. They can lynch our brothers in the South; they can segregate us, compel us to ride in the back seats of buses, trains and cars, but they can't make us spend our nickels where we don't want to spend them."

APR 12 1941

In his report to the meeting, the Rev. Mr. Powell, Jr., demanded that the committee be made permanent and named it the Permanent United Negro Bus Strike Committee. He said that as of 2 p. m. Tuesday, the bus situation was favorable, that an agreement was being drawn by the lawyers of the Omnibus Corporation, the Transport Workers Union and the Permanent United Negro Bus Strike Committee that would provide for the "immediate employment of 70 Negro mechanics in the shops" of the bus company.

35i-1941

NEW YORK

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Lending a Helping Hand

JAN 11 1941

News of the proposed meeting of the New York chapter of the National Technical Association with local mechanics is, indeed, heartening. It marks an unprecedented step in cooperation between groups engaged in allied occupations in which one group attempts to give of its ability, experience and training to other groups without cost or obligation.

In discussing the proposed meeting Chairman William Holly of the NTA explained that his organization has long been interested in a program of this sort and that he believes it will be the beginning of a new day for Negro skilled workmen when those who are well trained and equipped will work together with others who toil with their hands, but who have not had the opportunity to avail themselves of systematic or formal training.

Members of the NTA represent some of the nation's finest engineers, chemists and architects. All of them have two or more degrees and for the most part are engaged in governmental or private employment which takes them almost altogether out of any activity dealing with their own people. Under ordinary circumstances members of such a group would be inclined to isolate themselves into their own little clique and forget the little fellow.

The NTA is to be congratulated for its farsightedness in this program which will bring together carpenters, plumbers, electricians and mechanics in an effort to improve their ability and consequently their earning power. The Association of Trade and Commerce which is cooperating with the NTA, also is to be lauded for its interest. Considerable good ought to come out of the gathering, as the nation, in its National Defense program still needs competent skilled and semi-skilled men.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Why Whelan's Negro Workers Walked Out

The 65 Negro Workers of the Chain's 764 Striking Employes Suffer the Worst Wages and Working Conditions; Harlem Headquarters Busy

FEB 13 1941

By Ann Rivington

FEB 13 1941

If you want to know what the Whelan strike is about, you can find out at the Harlem strike headquarters, 304 West 126th St. The 65 Negroes among Whelan's 764 striking workers, members of Local 1199 of Pharmacists and Retail Drug Clerks, CIO, can tell you—they hold the worst jobs for the least pay in Whelan stores, and they're out solid.

Said Al Clarke, one of the strikers, "The way we figure it is this. The maximum we get is $21 a week, the minimum is $17—except for the delivery boys, and they get as low as $8, and do about every kind of work. With the rents we have to pay, and food for our families, we just have to strike, and stick together. And most of us are family men."

Joe Washington, member of the executive board of Local 1199 and head of the Harlem strike committee, explained the position of the Negro workers in Whelan stores to the Daily Worker, "Out of our salaries," he said," we have to pay an average of 42 percent for rent, and among us the number of dependents averages between two and three. We work fifty hours a week --the law won't let them work us any longer. And Whelan's hire no Negroes except as porters and errand boys, and a very few pantrymen."

He went on, "Then, about two thirds of our group are in the draft, and Whelan's gives absolutely no protection of jobs for draftees.

That's one of the strike demands."

NONE IN HARLEM

The Harlem strike headquarters is being donated by the United Whelan Boys Social Club of Harlem. In it is centered strike activity from 181st St., in Washington Heights, to 110th St. White as well as Negro workers from all over the city, assigned to picket in this territory, come there. There are no Whelan stores in Harlem, Joe Washington explained, but the United Cigar stores, owned by the same company, are being picketed to very good effect. "They're losing plenty of business," he said. "Mr. Brill, attorney for the company, made the statement that the public will soon forget. We say the public will never forget."

Commenting on the excellent morale of the strike, Mr. Washington explained, "Whelan was ready to give the lower categories — and that's where our boys all work — some concession. Not the 15 per cent increase we asked for, of course, but some little concession, to break the strike. But we're sticking with the others, solid. After all, we're a union! We've all got to be together."

The wives of the workers have begun to take an active part in the strike. "We got some of them out on the picket line Saturday." Union members who are employed in private concerns also come out on the picket line, at least three hours a week, often much more. While the Daily Worker reporter was in the Harlem headquarters, Mrs. Eulalie Mannix, the only woman pharmacist and only Negro woman in the union, came in for her picket sign." "There's other women in Harlem trained to be pharmacists," she explained, "But they can't get jobs. That's a big reason for organizing the women up here." Mrs. Mannix is a member of the union's executive board, and is undertaking the organization of a Harlem auxiliary.

JOSEPH WASHINGTON, chairman of the Harlem strike committee and member of Local 1199 executive board.

The Harlem headquarters has its soup kitchen, where sandwiches, soup, coffee and milk are served to cold and hungry picketers. Donations of canned goods come in from union members who are working in independent stores.

Clarence Wayde, in charge of the soup kitchen, smiles and says, "I've been doing the same job for Whelan's, 54 hours a week for $20, a little bit too long. It's more of a pleasure to do it for the union for a while."

The strike is receiving excellent moral support from Harlem organizations, said Mr. Washington.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Local Bus Strike

MAR 22 1941

There is a bus strike on in New York City. Directly involved are members of the Fifth Avenue Motor Coach Company, the New York Ominibus Company on the one side, with members of the Transport Workers Union on the other side and Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public in the middle.

Harlemites, of course, like all other New Yorkers are affected. With the Sixth and Ninth Avenue elevated railroads out of service considerable inconvenience is being suffered by residents of the community. They are bearing up fairly well, and instead of brooding over the lack of transportation, the majority of those who discuss the bus situation, are talking about the employment problem.

MAR 22 1941

But Negroes face an odd problem. The operators tell them the drivers don't want to work with them, and the drivers claim the operators don't want to hire Negroes—so there you are.

With the drive behind the present campaign that is being waged for recognition, we are inclined to believe the truth as to who is telling the truth and who is lying is certain to come out. We believe the Negroes are on the right track in seeking representation at the

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

White Workers Back Negro's Fight for Job

FEB 13 1941

Solidarity of Union Men in Support of Negro Member Breaks Jim-Crow Policy of Many Years at Lane Bryant

N. Y.

George Pride, young Negro, of 224 W. 114th St., until last week was just another of Harlem's thousands of jobless. Today he is employed at the Lane Bryant Co., 529 W. 42nd St., dealers in women's apparel, and has been getting along well with all the workers for over a week.

Behind this is a story—a story of solidarity and struggle, released yesterday by William Gaulden, of the National Negro Congress.

Lane Bryant is under a contract with Local 65, United Wholesale and Warehouse Employes, CIO, covering 350 workers. The contract provides hiring through the union. The firm needed a clerk and asked for one.

Next on the hiring list was George Pride — AND HE WAS SENT. But the firm refused to hire him.

Confronted by a committee of the National Negro Congress, headed by Gaulden, the manager of the company said:

"The management of the firm is satisfied with the policy which has proven satisfactory to the public for many years."

WORKERS BACK DEMAND

Gaulden referred the manager to the recent message of Gov. Lehman where even he had noted that racial discrimination should be combatted.

Gaulden further informed him that the company's statement was of a piece with the statement of a Navy officer when confronted recently with the charge of discrimination in the armed forces," who also replied that "the old policy was satisfactory for past generations and good enough now."

That had no effect.

So Leo Rosenberg, organizer of Local 65, called a meeting of the 350 workers and explained to them that the discrimination policy of the company is aimed against the union. The workers backed the demand that Pride be hired 100 per cent.

"When the personnel manager saw," said Gaulden, "that his employes were not part of that satisfied public that he had talked about, he talked turkey with the delegation."

"Pride is now working as a clerk and stated that he is getting along fine with the employes."

In a letter to Arthur Osman, President of Local 65, Gaulden wrote:

"Such action on the part of your union in cooperation with the Negro people is the only answer to the job problem of the Negro workers and a guarantee of a better living standard for all American workers. Management is using the past weaknesses of the trade unions to weaken the entire trade union movement."

Gaulden noted that there are "certain unions" which are still influenced by such "weaknesses."

"What we have accomplished together," he continued, "in getting a job for Mr. Pride, I hope, will serve as a medium to awaken all trade unions to this responsibility. The National Negro Congress at the present time is trying to cement such relationship with the other trade unions as the one w enjoy. The Pride case was a victory and a beginning."

Gaulden also made public a reply he received from Osman, which said:

"We feel that such solidarity between white and Negro will do a lot to strengthen our union. The Lane Bryant workers recognize that as long as discrimination against Negroes exists the employers will have a weapon to divide labor's ranks. We pledge to fight discrimination in all of our shops."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

EMPLOYEES
UNITED CIGA
WHELAN
STORES CORP.
EMPLOYED IN
WHELAN STORES
ON STRIKE

FEB 13 1941

EMPLOYEES
UNITED C
EMPLOYED IN
WHELAN
CIO
RETAIL DRUG STORE EMPLOYEES UNION
LOCAL 1199
ON STRIKE

These Negro strikers are some of the 700 employes of the Whelan drug store chain who walked out Feb. 1 under the leadership of Local 1199 of the Retail Drug Store Employes Union (CIO). Photo (left) shows two strikers, Lawrence Roper and Roy Parnell, warming up with hot coffee served by fellow striker Clarence Wade. At right is Miss Eulalie Mannix, strike leader, woman pharmacist and only Negro woman member of the union.

FEB 13 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

White Workers Back Negro's Fight for Job

FEB 13 1941

Solidarity of Union Men in Support of Negro Member Breaks Jim-Crow Policy of Many Years at Lane Bryant

N.Y.

65

George Pride, young Negro, of 224 W. 114th St., until last week was just another of Harlem's thousands of jobless. Today he is employed at the Lane Bryant Co., 529 W. 42nd St., dealers in women's apparel, and has been getting along well with all the workers for over a week.

Behind this is a story—a story of solidarity and struggle, released yesterday by William Gaulden, of the National Negro Congress.

Lane Bryant is under a contract with Local 65, United Wholesale and Warehouse Employes, CIO, covering 350 workers. The contract provides hiring through the union. The firm needed a clerk and asked for one.

Next on the hiring list was George Pride — AND HE WAS SENT. But the firm refused to hire him.

Confronted by a committee of the National Negro Congress, headed by Gaulden, the manager of the company said:

"The management of the firm is satisfied with the policy which has proven satisfactory to the public for many years."

WORKERS BACK DEMAND

Gaulden referred the manager to the recent message of Gov. Lehman where even he had noted that racial discrimination should be combatted.

Gaulden further informed him that the company's statement was of a piece with the statement of a Navy officer when confronted recently with the charge of discrimination in the armed forces," who also replied that "the old policy was satisfactory for past generations and good enough now."

That had no effect.

So Leo Rosenberg, organizer of Local 65, called a meeting of the 350 workers and explained to them that the discrimination policy of the company is aimed against the union. The workers backed the demand that Pride be hired 100 per cent.

"When the personnel manager saw," said Gaulden, "that his employes were not part of that satisfied public that he had talked about, he talked turkey with the delegation."

"Pride is now working as a clerk and stated that he is getting along fine with the employes."

In a letter to Arthur Osman, President of Local 65, Gaulden wrote:

"Such action on the part of your union in cooperation with the Negro people is the only answer to the job problem of the Negro workers and a guarantee of a better living standard for all American workers. Management is using the past weaknesses of the trade unions to weaken the entire trade union movement."

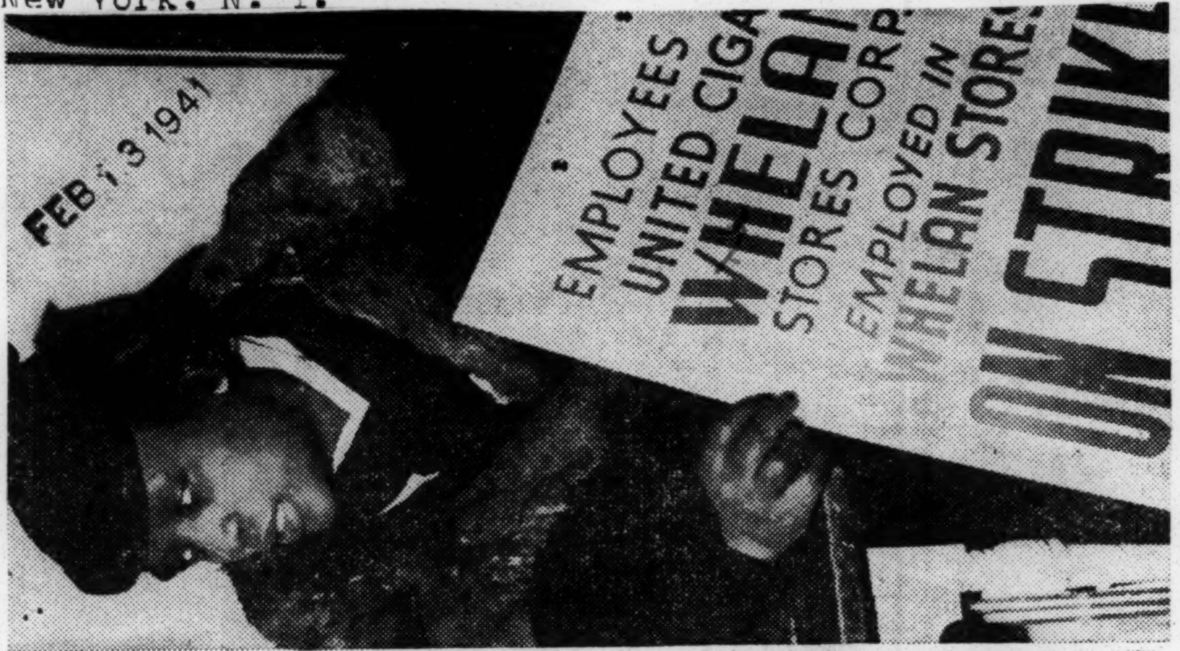
Gaulden noted that there are "certain unions" which are still influenced by such "weaknesses."

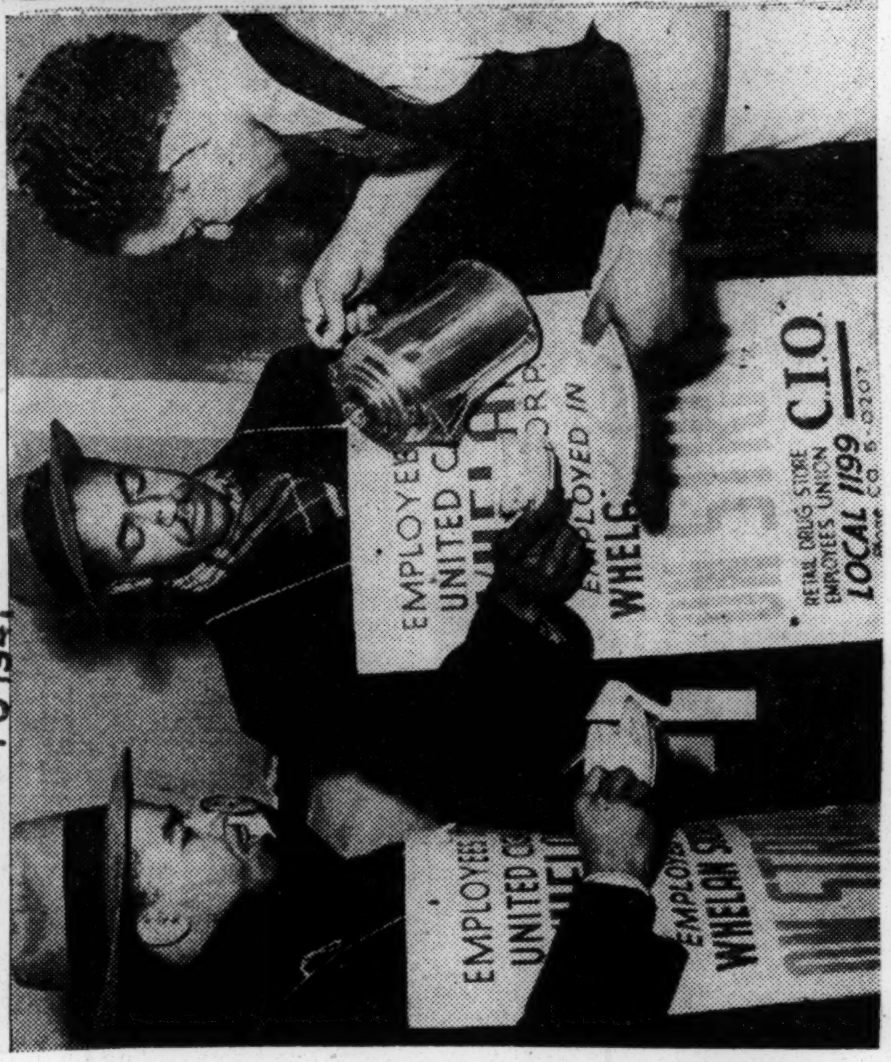
"What we have accomplished together," he continued, "in getting a job for Mr. Pride, I hope, will serve as a medium to awaken all trade unions to this responsibility. The National Negro Congress at the present time is trying to cement such relationship with the other trade unions as the one we enjoy. The Pride case was a victory and a beginning."

Gaulden also made public a reply he received from Osman, which said:

"We feel that such solidarity between white and Negro will do a lot to strengthen our union. The Lane Bryant workers recognize that as long as discrimination against Negroes exists the employers will have a weapon to divide labor's ranks. We pledge to fight discrimination in all of our shops."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.





These Negro strikers are some of the 700 employes of the Whelan drug store chain who walked out Feb. 1 under the leadership of Local 1199 of the Retail Drug Store Employes Union (CIO). Photo (left) shows two strikers, Lawrence Roper and Roy Parnell, warming up with hot coffee served by fellow striker Clarence Wade. At right is Miss Eulalie Mannix, strike leader, woman pharmacist and only Negro woman member of the union.

351

35i-1941

New York

NEW YORK

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Strikers Report Progress

APR 15 1941

Will Expand Activities 'Til Fight Is Won

NEW YORK — (ANP)— Five thousand Negroes, hell-bent for jobs with the major bus companies serving Harlem, crowded into the Golden Gate casino last week and heard their United Bus Strike committee report that $3,000 in daily losses of revenue have brought the operators to the negotiation table, but that the strikers "intend to picket on this side until hell freezes." Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of Abyssinia Baptist church, and one of the three co-chairmen of the committee, told the eager audience that the following events had transpired and demands made during the past 14 days of the struggle.

1. That John A. Ritchie, president of both the Fifth Avenue Coach company and the New York Omnibus Corp., after a steadfast refusal to acknowledge the repeated requests of the committee for a conference, called in the representatives and admitted the mounting losses. Because of this fact, he is willing to employ 211 Negro busmen and mechanics if the Transport Workers union can be appeased.

APR 15 1941

2. That conferences with the TWO officials succeeded in pairing a seniority list of 400 chauffeurs awaiting jobs to 94 men who have had part-time work in the past two or three years; and that as soon as these men are placed, the next 100 men would have to be Negroes.

3. That inasmuch as there is no seniority or waiting list for shop mechanics, 70 Negroes be given immediate employment in this category; and that 100 others be immediately selected and placed into training as bus drivers, a process that requires from four to six weeks.

4. That the agreement embodying these several terms shall be continued in a contract signed by properly authorized representatives of the bus companies, the union and the committee and having the full weight of law behind it.

5. That the word, "permanent" shall preface the present name of the United Bus Strike committee indicating thereby that to assail, in turn, misleading headlines, unauthoritative information, "modernized" Uncle Toms, "black stool pigeons, bundles for Britain when what we need are "bundles for Harlem", high rents and high food costs. He promised a roll call of all the "big shots" including doctors, dentists, lawyers, ministers,—"yes, even number bankers"—at the next meeting to ask them where they stand. "There shall be no relenting of picketing and, boycotting until that document is signed and men are working," Rev. Powell closed.

APR 15 194

Both Roger Straughn and Atty Hope R. Stevens, the other two co-chairmen of the committee, exhorted the audience to continue and where possible redouble their support by covering others to, the "walk and talk" drive for jobs. Stevens "summoned" the National Urban league, the YMCA, YWCA, the fraternities and sororities, the Elks and other secret orders as well as all the political parties to come out and take a position. "The support of these organizations will show,' he said, "that the Negro people of Harlem are united in the struggle."

APR 15 1941

Rev. Dr. William Lloyd Imes of St. James Presbyterian church declared that "as long as we have 12,000,000 suffering daily indignitics and ostracism from jobs that are the privilege of all God's children, this land is not free and not safe. This is holy week and, it is an admirable time to put religion into practice."

Fredi Washington, star of stage and screen, pleaded for the women's support so that the "daughters of mothers might be able to marry men who could support them." She pointed to the action of many of the 2,000 delegates to the American People's meeting at Randall's island last Sunday who, learning of the boycott of buses by Negroes, chose to walk across the rainy andwind-swept Triborough Bridge rather than break the strike. She took a whack at the "intellectual and better Negroes" to whom she attributed a "new low in self-respect" for remaining aloof to the fight.

APR 15 1941

It was announced that the disorderly conduct case of Mrs. Helen Harris, 25-year-old housewife, had been postponed until April 17. Mrs. Harris is said to have thrown a piece of wood at a time when a bus was passing. Officer Ramsey, the Negro patrolman who arrested her, is charged with having struck her across the back with his billy, ful disciplinary action for which has been promised by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine.

An accounting of funds collected the week before revealed that $185 had been received and the detailed expenditure of these receipts met with general approval. It was said that costs run to $14 a day and covers the expense of fuel for private cars begin used on the avenues as an accommodation for strikers, a food kitchen at Abyssinia church where pickets and others participating receive free meals, and other small incidental charges. Many thanks were given to those contributing food, labor and other important items to the campaign. Withuot any difficulty, $235 was collected at the meeting.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Bus Boycott Wins Pledge of 510 Jobs

APR 26 1941

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The four-week boycott of Harlem busses ended in victory, Friday, with the signing of an agreement which guarantees the eventual employment of approximately 510 colored drivers and mechanics.

Signing the agreement were representatives of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Corporation, which operate the busses involved; the Transport Workers' Union and the United Negro Bus Association, sponsor of the boycott.

APR 26 1941

Union Bar Broken

A stipulation that all those employed be admitted to full membership in the union was included. Picket lines were immediately removed.

Success of the campaign will be celebrated with a victory parade on Saturday, leading from 110th Street and Seventh Avenue to Colonial Park, where representatives of the three parties to the agreement will address an open-air mass meeting at 4 p.m.

According to the terms of the agreement, seniority rights o. all but ninety-one of the white drivers on furlough will be waived and when the latter are absorbed, the next hundred drivers hired will be colored.

APR 26 1941

17 Per Cent. to Be Colored

The next seventy maintenance men or shop mechanics hired will likewise be colored. Thereafter, colored and white workers will be hired alternately to fill all vacancies until 17 per cent. of the companies 3000-odd employees are colored, in keeping with the city's population ratio.

It is anticipated that the initial group will be placed within a relatively short period, due to the expected granting of franchises for two new lines in other sections of the city, as well as the reduction of the present 10-hour work day to 8 hours.

Mechanics Get $1.12 Per Hour

A call has already been issued for four diesel engine mechanics, whose pay begins at $1,12 per hour. Ten men will begin a six weeks' course of training as drivers immedately.

The Rev. A. Clayton Powel' Jr., Hope R. Stevens and R
Straughn signed the ag
for the association, wh
up of three repres
from the Harlem Labor Union, the National Negro Congress and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment.

APR 26 1941

The association is expected to reorganize and, under some new name, resume its boycott activities against other industries which invoke a color line in employment.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

APR 26 1941

The fight that is being waged by New York Negroes for jobs with the major bus companies serving Harlem, should be followed with interest by Chicago Negroes. It is about time that a concerted and determined drive be made for a proportional share of employment in the various transit lines that operate on the Southside.

If Negroes were given adequate jobs on the surface and elevated trains and on the metropolitan busses, they would not be forced to operate jitney cabs which yield them at best a meagre living. Those who have been complaining against the drivers of those cabs should think twice before voicing their criticisms. For, the imperative necessity for making a legitimate living, the obvious absence of adequate employment leave our able-bodied men with three alternatives: plead for charity, create work for themselves or engage in systematic stealing. In electing to create work for themselves rather than accepting either of the remaining alternatives, our cab drivers should have our respect and praise rather than contempt and denunciation.

APR 26 1941

We have enough criminals in our midst and enough members of our group on relief. Our people have been pauperized through a conspiracy to deny them an opportunity to earn a decent livelihood. Race prejudice, segregation and discrimination serve to close many doors in our faces. All of us cannot be doctors, or lawyers or preachers. Besides, how could our professional class exist if it were not supported by the common people? The working class is the base upon which rests the upper structure of our social order. When that base is weakened the social order which is dependent upon it is thereby threatened with collapse. The remedy is jobs, jobs and more jobs for the masses.

APR 26 1941

In consideration of the manifold difficulties in the way of the members of the race who are able and willing to work but are robbed of the privilege by agencies that are indifferent to their fate, we should not be too quick to criticize those who possess enough ingenuity to work out their own existence.

If we do not like jitneys, then we should fight to remove the situation that makes them possible. We should fight to get jobs on bus, surface and elevated lines for the men who are now driving dime-cabs. If Harlem can force the transit lines to make concessions, as the owners of those lines have already indicated, why can't Chicago's Southside exact some reasonable consideration from the street car and bus companies into whose coffers millions of our dollars go annually?

Perhaps we need a fighting parson as fearless and uncompromising as the Rev. A. Clayton Powell of New York, to inspire the masses here to action! Our biggest handicap here is that we always surrender before our objective is reached.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

To Drive N. Y. City Vehicles

4-Week Riders' Strike Ends In Unusual Job Contract

APR 24 1941

By ERNEST R. JOHNSON

NEW YORK—(ANP)—The bus strike is won. Pickets ceased their parading at noon Friday with the signing of a tri-partite agreement, the first such contract of its kind, guaranteeing the employment of at least 170 Negroes as chauffeurs and shop mechanics on the two major omnibus lines in New York City, with the added possibility of this number increasing to 500.

APR 24 1941

Signatures on this very important document, called by many the "magna charter" for Negro labor, terminated a four-week struggle to open up avenues of employment in one of the utilities, heretofore always a field steadfast in its refusals of jobs to Negroes.

The contract was signed by John A. Ritchie, president of both the Fifth Avenue Coach company and the New York Omnibus corporation; Michael Quill and Austin Hogan, international and local presidents, respectively, of the Transport Workers union of America and (CIO); and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., Hope R. Stevens and Roger Straughn for the new United Negro Bus association.

Contract Lauded

Harrison S. Jackson, counsel to the bus association, drafted this notable instrument containing the essential and basic demands originally put forth by this group to the operating companies and only slightly modified during the weeks of negotiation. Atty. Jackson, author of the 125th Street Coordinating agreement that affected Negro employment in that important section, is the only Negro lawyer in this state at present holding the degree of doctor of juridical science.

The signed agreement carries the following obligations:

The affiliated bus companies shall employ 100 Negroes as chauffeurs as soon as a seniority list of 91 whites is absorbed. From private but reliable sources it has been learned that this list will be quickly taken up due to the expected granting of franchises for two new lines in other sections of the city, as well as the reduction of the present 10-hour day to 8 hours.

70 Shops

In the shops where there is an immediate shortage, up to 70 Negroes will be hired exclusively as the need develops. Already a call has been made for four diesel engine mechanics, an applicant for which was said to be enroute from Detroit to fill one of these jobs. His pay will begin at $1.12 per hour. The companies are installing additional diesel engines in their buses which will require mechanics skilled in this work.

After these 170 men have been employed, all other vacancies developing in the operating division will be filled at the ratio of one Negro for every white, alternately, until a total representing 17 per cent of the companies' personnel, of 510 persons, are Negroes

Ten men will start immediate training, a four to six-weeks process, for the operation of the buses. This training is given in a manner similar to instructions for the driving of private vehicles.

APR 24 1941

Union Will Admit

The union has agreed that all Negroes employed by the operating companies shall be admitted to membership on an equal basis with white employes and shall be accorded full rights and privileges in the union.

In turn, the UNBA has agreed to cease picketing and boycotting the companies and to refrain from further doing so unless there is a default in the contract.

APR 24 1941

Further, the companies have promised to submit to the UNBA a report showing the progress of employment of Negroes. One of the major concessions made by the UNBA was its relinquishing of all control over the hiring of personnel leaving this detail to the companies. In so doing it was felt that the charge that it is "self-seeking" would be avoided.

High Percentage Smart Move

Interesting was the manner in which it was said the maximum figure was reached. The company had proposed the population ratio but took as its figure the total Negro population of Greater New York which represents 7 per cent of the whole. Through the insistence of Rev. Powell that only New York City where the ratio is 17 per cent of the whole is affected, the latter figure was agreed upon.

The entire effort was financed out of approximately $600 representing contributions from individuals and civic, political, social, religious, and other interested groups. The complete story has not yet been told of the difficulties encountered in this major move to relieve the economic distress of Harlem's black folk.

A victory parade is planned for Saturday, April 26, starting at 110th st. and marching up Seventh avenue to Colonial park where addresses will be made by representatives of the three parties to the contract. At the Golden Gate casino the following week, a victory party will be given in honor of the drivers of the private cars, the pickets, the women who served in the kitchen and others who helped.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

2 BUS LINES AGREE TO EMPLOY NEGROES

APR 21 1941

Fifth Avenue Coach Company and New York City Omnibus Corporation Sign Pact

ACTION FOLLOWS BOYCOTT

T. W. U. Will Waive Seniority Rights for All Except 91 Drivers on Furlough

An agreement to employ Negroes on buses owned and operated by the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and the New York City Omnibus Corporation was signed yesterday morning in the offices of the companies at 605 West 132d Street.

The agreement was signed by representatives of the Transport Workers Union, the United Negro Bus Strike Committee and the bus companies. The pact followed a boycott campaign against the companies organized by the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment, the Harlem Labor Union and the National Negro Congress.

APR 21 1941

Under the terms of the agreement the Transport Workers Union will waive seniority rights for all except ninety-one drivers furloughed by the companies. After these ninety-one are re-employed, according to the agreement, the next 100 jobs on buses are to be given to Negroes.

In addition, the agreement provides that the next seventy men to be hired in the maintenance division will be Negroes. Thereafter, Negroes are to be hired alternately with white workers until 17 per cent of the companies' employes are Negro. It was estimated that this is the proportion of Negroes in the city.

After the agreement was signed, picket lines that had been established at the principal bus stations in Harlem since the end of March were discontinued.

The campaign for the agreement was marked by violence on March 31, when windows of three buses owned by the New York Omnibus Company and operated in the Harlem district were smashed by missiles thrown by sympathizers with the movement.

APR 21 1941

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

R.R. Waiters Seek Wage Fight Help

NEW YORK—Dining car employes of the New York Central railroad who are seeking better pay and working conditions received assistance this week from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which sent letters to President Williamson of the railr , and William Green, president of the A.F. of L.

The N.A.A.C.P. letter stated that due to the speedup in trains in recent years and the rearrangement of schedules, the dining car employes, although guaranteed 240 hours a month, are not able to make this total of hours even though they work every day in the month.

AUG 2 1941

Many men in the service reported to the N.A.A.C.P. that they had not had a day off in over a year.

35i-1941 NEW YORK

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Shakeup In Harlem Labor Union Following Agreement To Hire Negroes On Buses

Business Agent and Organizer Who Opposed New Ruling Are Fired

Replacements Will Start Soon

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—Difference of opinion over policy and method of functioning, particularly in connection with the recent successful collaboration of the organization in the campaign for the employment of Negroes on major bus lines here, last week resulted in the ousting from the Harlem Labor union of Joseph Allen, business agent, and Quentin Knight, an organizer.

The action comes as the latest development in the reorganizing process instituted by President Roger Straughn, and took the form of a motion before the executive committee of the union to sever the relations of the two men from the group for "just couse." The vote was unanimously approved. Some two or three weeks ago Columbus A. Alston, publicity director of the union, was ousted.

In the explanation given for the committee's action, it was revealed that these three men disapproved of te tri-partite agreement arrived at between the Unite Negro Bus association, with which the Harlem Labor union is affiliated, the New York City Omnibus corporation and the 5th Avenue Coach company, and the Transport Workers union of America. The contract was the result of a four-week struggle to secure jobs for Negroes as chauffeurs and mechanics with the companies on a population ratio basis the mavimum of which would be about 510 men. The agreement further stipulated the manner in which these men would be hired and trained.

According to a spokesman for the ousted members, immediate employment of Negroes will be postponed because the Bus Association "was unwilling to demand the firing of whites" in order to make room for the Negroes. This spokesman was critical of any disposition on the part of the Harlemites to reach a compromise, in spite of the enthusiastic reception given the final document by the community who felt a victory had been registered.

While the bus incident precipitated the Monday debate, it was said that other facts were presented which mitigated against the men. Allen, heretofore responsible for organizing of bars and grills, was charged with having had 400 signs printed certifying to conformity to rules and regulations of the HLU, affived his signature, and sold these to the grills for $5 a piece. All of his is said to have been done without the knowledge or approval of the executive committee whose function it is to pass on such things.

Knight was said to have fallen down on his production in that he neiter brought in new membres nor adjusted any contracts requiring attention. He was, owever, "regular in appearing on Friday evenings for his check." The conduct of both men was said to be reprehensoble to because of their "anto-Semitic beliefs", a thing that "brought embarrassment and hurt to the organization."

Prior to January Straughn had been active in the Broklyn local of the union. When he was elected president, he said, he immediately laid plans for "removing the stigma that had long been a drawback" to the union. He takes credit for having initiated the move to place both the business agent and organizer on the payrolls inasmuch as he felt it desirable to "relieve them of any temptation" to compromise their positions in dealing with shop owners.

Arthur Reid, militant street speaker and former head of the HLU during whose time considerable criticism had been leveled at the organization, is believed to have been an outside influence upon Allen, Knight and Alston. Their charges that the union, in folowing a course paralled with that of the Greater New York Coordinating committee and the Manhattan council of the National' Negro congress, the other affiliates of the bus association, is putting itself "under the domination of Communist."

"I want this organization in a position," Straughn declared," so that when we take a ntand for or against something, we shall have the public with us. If my friendship for men of good repute such as Rev. (A. Clapton) Powell and Atty. (Hope R.) Stephens does not set well with the men who have been removed from the HLU, it is a good sign."

Announcement was made of the amendment to the union's charter which now permits it to carry its activities to cities outside of New York State. Preparations are now being made to move into their new headquarters to be located at 236 West 116 street.

MAY 10 1941

MAY 10 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Owner Threatens Two Negro Strikers With Gun In Spring Products Co. Furniture Walkout

351

Two Negro strikers of the Spring Products Corp., 4 Court Sq., Long Island City, were threatened with shooting yesterday morning when Samuel Marcus, principal owner of this furniture manufacturing concern became enraged because he was unable to find any scabs among the 400 Negro workers and poked a gun in the backs of Leroy Clark and Thomas Williams, ordering them to "get to hell" out of his place. Clark, treasurer of Local 91, United Furniture Workers of America, CIO, and a leader of the strike, and Thomas, rank-and-filer, defied Marcus' threat but quietly left the factory and joined the picket line.

The threat to shoot came shortly after the factory management, having learned that the workers had voted to strike for the second time since the shop was unionized in 1938, had canvassed workers still in the building and found that they were about 99 per cent with the strikers. The one per cent that remained in the shop, mostly foremen and clerks was reduced still more when these men, also, walked out.

The 400 Negro workers are striking to force the company to pay a minimum of $16 a week. The present minimum is $12. The average minimum wage for the industry is $16, $18 and $20 weekly, while piece workers get an average of from $25 to $30. In this all-Negro shop the piece worker draws an average wage of from $15 to $16.

THE DEMANDS

"The reason why Spring Products hires only Negroes in its shops," John Smith, shop chairman and a strike leader, said yesterday, "is that Negroes, being on the whole less union-conscious than white workers, [illegible] be exploited more easily."

The company in the past, he said, had brought in white workers to break a strike, promising them that if they took over the jobs of the striking Negroes they would be rewarded later with promotions and higher pay. Since these promises were never kept, Smith said, the company did not get very far with that scheme.

During the 1938 strike, according to Clark, the company sent out scouts to the Negro sections of Jamaica, Corona, Brooklyn and Manhattan and rounded up scores of unemployed youths. The union, however, through the Citizens' Committee that was formed to help it and through its own educational department, won over most of the youths.

The strike leaders anticipate similar tactics this time on the company's part, they said yesterday, but are prepared to counteract it. They said that their 1938 strike was weakened also by the arrest and jailing of all the strike leaders on trumped-up charges. Most of these charges alleged "assault," in one form or another, on scabs.

GET WIDE SUPPORT

The leaders of the present strike are the identical men who were framed and imprisoned for the first strike. They declare that although they will do their utmost to avoid a repetition of the 1938 happenings they will not allow any compromise of the principles involved. The first strike was settled, Clark said yesterday, with only slight advantage to the workers.

Other furniture locals are giving Local 91 complete support and have pledged several hundred dollars weekly toward creating a strike fund. The Negro strikers are getting the moral support also of workers on the picket line at the Sunshine Biscuit Co., just a block away. The Spring Products workers say they show their solidarity with the white workers of Sunshine Biscuits by boycotting the latter's goods.

Local 91, United Furniture Workers of America, CIO, came into being as a result of a National Labor Relations Board decision in 1937. Previously there had been no union in that shop. The workers elected a delegation to go to the regional headquarters of the CIO and ask for admission. The delegation told the CIO that it had more than 300 Negro workers ready to join. Local CIO officials were somewhat sceptical but gave the delegation 350 application cards. That same day 250 cards, filled out and signed, were returned to the CIO office. The Negro workers of the Spring Products Corp. were given a charter as Local 91. When the management refused to bargain with the new union, the NLRB was called in.

AUG 8 1941
AUG 8 1941
AUG 8 1941
AUG 8 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Groups Picket B'klyn Woolworth Store

Picketing of the Woolworth five-and-ten-cent store on Fulton St., Brooklyn, has been resumed, after a summer lull, the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress announced yesterday. Picketing of the store was begun late last year, the Congress and the Brooklyn Negro Youth Federation, assisted by the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, leading the demonstration to induce the management to hire Negro salesgirls in that predominately Negro neighborhood.

The Congress announced that at a recent meeting of councils of the organization from Manhattan, Jamaica, Westchester, Hempstead, Brooklyn and the West Side a joint call was issued for a conference Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21, at 141 W. 125th St., for the purpose of coordinating the work of the various councils and planning a program on the basis of this coordination.

Malcolm Martin is president and Mrs. Dorothy Funn secretary of the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress.

1941

SEP 20 1941
SEP 20 1941

35i-1941
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NORTH CAROLINA

What Has The Tobacco Union To Offer?

MAR 8 1941

MAR 8 1941

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—SNS

What has the Tobacco Union to offer the colored workers in the R. J. Reynolds factory. Can the Union give Hospitalization? No because the workers already have that without the Union, can they give vacation pay? No because they already have that without the union.

Can they give the Sick and Accident plan? No because they already have that without the Union Can the give the Retirement plan?

No because they already have that without the Union. Can they give the Sick and Accident plan? No because they already have that without the Union. Can they give the Kate Biting Hospital? No because the Reynolds Co. has already given to the colored people of Winston this fine hospital.

MAR 8 1941

The Reynolds Co. has been the colored man in Winston and do not be mislead by someone approaching you who is making an enormous salary of $9.00 per day to go around and try to get you in the Union so that he can continue getting this $9.00 per day. Why should you be the sucker for the Union and pay dues when you are getting all these benefits without the Union.In view of the fact that the R. J. R. Co. offers all these advantages with a Union why in the World would even entertain in your mind an idea of even considering a Union.

Don't become dissatisfied and listen to a long tale which will not mean anything to you.

Again the Telegram your friendly newspaper is telling the workers of the R. J. R. Co. is your friend and do not join any organization that cannot offer you more the the R. J. R. can offer you and the Local Tobbacco Union certainly cannot do this.

35i-NC

351-1941

OHIO

The Daily Worker
New York. N. Y.

Re-elect Negro Union Head In Cleveland

MAR 7 1941

Joseph Jackson Chosen As President of Steel Local in Cleveland

MAR 7 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CLEVELAND, March 6. — Twelve hundred workers, 300 Negro and 900 white, reelected Joseph Jackson, Negro trade unionist, president of the Midland Steel local of the United Automobile Workers of America, CIO, last night.

The election in Midland Steel was for the annual selection of officers and members of the local executive board. Four Negroes ran for office in the union and three, including Jackson, were elected. The others were Edward Webb, member of the grievance committee, and William Finger for delegate to the Cleveland Industrial Union Council of the CIO.

MAR 7 1941

This is the second time within the past five months that Jackson has been selected to lead the union in Midland. He replaced the union's former president Mac Cheek, last November, when Cheek resigned.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Bias Leads To Transfer Of Union Worker

OCT 6 - 1941

Prejudiced Words Were Uttered During Strike

35

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—Swift action was taken by the CIO in transferring to another region, Carl Copeland, organizer, who stated during the strike of tool and die workers at the Curtiss Wright airplane plant here recently that "Negroes should be segregated." The workers are reported to have walked out because a colored worker was placed in their department by the company in compliance with the President's Executive Order of June 25, the NAACP stated this week.

According to a letter to the Association from R. J. Thomas, president of the International Union of the UAW-CIO, Copeland is from the South and "he has in his make-up the Southern prejudices which have been built up during the years." Richard Frankensteen of Detroit, National Aviation Director for the CIO was sent to Columbus to investigate the situation.

OCT 6 - 1941

The strike, which was not official, was ended last week, and the Negro concerned was retained on the company's payroll. The matter has been referred to the union's grievance committee. Frankensteen has issued a public statement making clear the position of the UAW with respect to non-discriminatory hiring.

3

351-1941

OKLAHOMA

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Domestics Organize

(35i)

APR 5 1941

When an intoxicated white man jump~~ed on~~ his Negro maid in Oklahoma City recently, the employer landed in a hospital ~~and the~~ maid went to jail. Of course the maid was later released and all charges dropped when a preliminary statement had been made to the court.

5i Okla

The important factor in the unfortunate incident developed when Negro domestic workers in Oklahoma City joined their hands together for the first time in defense of a black girl who shot to defend her physical person. This spells organization.

APR 5 - 1941

At last the spirit of the N. A. A. C. P. is creeping into the ranks of the masses. Black folk will never get anywhere as a minority group in this country until it is generally known when one Negro is insulted all Negroes are insulted. "Am I my brother's keeper?" is a divine admonition. It is the essence of organized might.

APR 5 - 1941

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

The United Brotherhood Of Carpenters Refused Work At Tulsa Bomber Plant

Local Number 816 Consists Of All Negro Members

NAACP Takes Up Fight

35i Okla

TULSA.—A complaint was filed this week by Atty. Amos T. Hall and Primus C. Wade for the N. A. C. P. Local Branch in favor of The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 816, Tulsa, Okla. against Manhattan Cinstruction Co. a corporation.

SEP 6 1941

The complaint arose out of the fact that on August 15th skilled workmen of local 816 applied for work at the Bomber Plant and made application for same. No answer was given to the application that they might be permitted to go to work on or about Aug. 18th. On August the 18th these workmen were told that the Employing Agency was not satisfied with their union cards: and that later on that day these workmen presented their charter and was told by one D. D. Layton in charge of employment of carpenters that because of the difference in the initiation fees of Local No. 816, and Local 943, he could not put members of Local 816 to work until Hon. Ed. Warren organizer for this region of the brotherhood gave his approval. Acting upon this suggestion the members contacted Mr. Warren and he told the members that this was not a reason for Mr. Layton refusing them work. When the members of Local No. 816 related this to Mr. Layton he became offended and made other excuses the exact nature which he refuses to state.

SEP 6 1941

The N. A. A. C. P. takes the stand that the employing agency or Mr. Layton is refusing to employ members of carpenters Union No. 816 solely on grounds that they are colored person of African decent and has filed the complaint before The Committee On Fair Employment Pratice of the United States of America.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Let Negroes Be Janitors," Says Boilermakers Union

OCT 4 1941

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 2.—The Boilermakers Union, Local 72, with offices in the Labor Temple here, has been accused of "flagrant discrimination" by the Advisory Council for Negroes and was reported last week to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice now holding hearings in Los Angeles.

From a copy of the complaint sent to it by the Advisory Council, the local NAACP revealed that the local apparently is keeping four companies which have stated in writing their willingness to use Negro workers in any and all plant operations from doing so.

The Oregon Shipbuilding corporation, Willamette Iron and Steel, Commercial Iron Works, Albina Machinist Works, all of this city are under contract to the union. This union is reported to have refused to grant the request of Dr. D. N. Unthank, chairman of the Advisory Council to abolish its policy of excluding Negro members.

OCT 4 1941

The refusal was made on grounds that "the available supply of Negro labor in this area could be absorbed as janitors."

The wage for janitors is about 77 cents an hour. The prevailing wage for boilermakers is approximately $1.25, according to Dr. Unthank.

"Let Negroes Be Janitors"

OCT 2 1941

Says Boilermakers Union In Disposing of Work Application

Portland, Ore.—The Boilermakers union, Local 72 with office in the Labor Temple here has been accused of 'flagrant discrimination' by the Advisory Council for Negroes and was reported last week to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice now holding hearings in Los Angeles.

From a copy of the complaint sent to it by the Advisory Council, the local NAACP revealed that the local apparently is keeping four companies which have stated in writing their willingness to use Negro workers in any and all plant operations from doing so.

OCT 2

The Oregon Shipbuilding corporation, Willamette Iron and Steel, Commercial Iron Works, Albina Machinist Works, all of this city are under contract to the union. This union is reported to have refused to grant the request of Dr. D. N. Unthank, the chairman of the Advisory Council to abolish its policy of excluding Negro members.

The refusal was made on the grounds that 'the available supply of Negro labor in this area could be absorbed as janitors.'

The wage for janitors is about 77 cents an hour. The prevailing wage for boilermakers is approximately $1.25, according to Dr. Unthank.

35i-1941

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLORED TRAINMEN INC.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 19, 1941

COLORED RAILWAY WORKERS WILL MEET

Session Tuesday at Tabernacle Baptist

The Southern Association of Colored Railway Trainmen, Inc., will hold a public mass meeting Tuesday at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Alice street, of which Rev. Edward D. Davis is pastor.

Several prominent persons and a number of railway workers and representatives from other cities will be in attendance. John D. Marshall, president of the organization, will preside. The general theme will be "The Future of the Negro Worker in Railway Employment." The following program will be rendered at the night session Tuesday:

Opening, "America"; invocation, Rev. E. D. Davis; congregation singing; introduction of the master of ceremonies, President J. D. Marshall; remarks by master of ceremonies, Robert B. Holmes; "Negro Americanism," Arthur Clement; selection, Tabernacle Baptist choir; greetings from delegates from Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Waycross, and others; selection, Georgia State College quintet; address, "Negroes Must Organize," President Benjamin F. Hubert; "The Status of the Negro Railway Worker," Clarence Perkins; selection, Jones Funeral Choir; address, "Labor Unions and Negro Rail Workers," S. A. Jones; general discussion, "What the Southern Association of Colored Railway Trainmen Stand For," led by Youme Gibbon, Evie Allen, J. C. Crawford, J. C. Lindsay and John Wilson.

Attending from various sections of the state and serving on important committees are: J. C. Lindsay, chairman of the resolution committee; Adolphus Cummings, J. G. Lemon, W. O. English, E. Standford, James Quinn, William Jones, John Lee; steering committee, A. Cummings, Robert B. Holmes, J. C. Crawford; program committee, Simeon Williams, John Newkirk, Daniel Blalock, Leroy Campbell, H. C. Chatman, John Wilson and John Lyons. Officers of the organization include: John Marshall, president; Jerry Bennett, vice president; Evie Allen, secretary, and E. W. Greene, treasurer.

351-1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

SAYS UNITED STATES COURT HAS NO JURISDICTION IN ACTION INVOLVING SENIORITY RIGHTS

Judge Marion Boyd of Memphis Finds No Federal Violation in Case of Teague Vs. Locomotive Firemen Brotherhood

MAR 28 1941

By W. Daniel Holder

MEMPHIS.—(ANP)—Another setback was given the rights of colored railroad workers of the South here last Wednesday when Federal Judge Marion Boyd refused to try the Ed. Teague-B. L. E. and F. case which has attracted nationwide attention.

The suit was brought on behalf of Teague, railroad fireman of Louisville, Miss., against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, which Teague claims, conspired with the G. M. & O. Railroad to deprive colored firemen of their seniority rights on this railroad.

MAR 28 1941

Representing the Brotherhood, Attorneys C. M. Bryan of Memphis and William P. Moss, Jackson, Miss., argued that the case concerned a Common Law action and should be brought in a court of the state. Judge Boyd then ruled that no federal statute had been violated and that the federal court had no jurisdiction.

Teague has been represented by Attorneys Charles Houston and Z. Alexander Looby and the case has been sponsored by the International Association of Railroad Employes, composed of colored rail workers.

The case had previously been tried in the court of Judge John D. Martin, Jackson, Miss., Teague seeking an injunction against the railroad and asking damages for fraud, breach of contract, breach of trust and violation of the Railway Labor Act.

MAR 28 1941

Teague's counsel argued that G. M. and O. and the white Brotherhood and reached an agreement whereby white fi en would be given preference r colored firemen under new ar gements made when Diesel-driven engines began to replace the coal-burners. It was also charged that the Brotherhood had agreements with several railroads to replace colored senior workers with junior white workers doing the same type of work.

The International Association of Railway Employes (colored) was organized several years ago after a series of alleged assaults on colored workers on the Illinois Central, most of which occurred South of Jackson. A number of the colored workers were killed, it was stated. The association made an effort to join the white Brotherhood, but were refused admittanue, association officials declared.

TENNESSEE

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

WHITE AND COLORED IN STRIKE HERE

APR 11 1941

Hotel Workers Walk Out Over Plan To Bring "Outsiders" To Nashville; Poor Pay And Long Hours Cited

"We will never go back on them; we couldn't if we tried. Our constitution wouldn't permit it." So stated Charles E. Sands, International Representative, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance, in connection with the policy of Local 557 in dealing with its Negro members.

APR 11 1941

The Local has been out on strike at the Andrew Jackson Hotel since 6 A. M. Tuesday. Approximately 150 hotel employees, of which half are Negroes, are taking turns at picketing Nashville's largest hotel. A strike vote was taken Monday night at the requests of the shop stewards who are said to have believed the hotel manager was importing workers from out of the state, gradually replacing the organized union workers.

APR 11 1941

Sands explained, "we have attempted to negotiate in good faith with the manager of Hotel Andrew Jackson since March 15, when our proposal for increases affecting 175 employees was submitted. The hotel submitted a counter-proposal which would affect the condition of about 20. This proposal was rejected and the shop stewards directed that a strike vote be taken."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Strikers Win Furniture Co. Salary Hike

MAY 10 1941

By JAMES H. PURDY JR.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—The strike at the Memphis Furniture company, which began a week ago ended when the Furniture company agreed to increase the wages of its 700 or more employees.

MAY 10 1941

According to a statement issued by Phil Canale, attorney for the company, the agreement calls for a substantial increase to every one of the 700 employees in the plant. Canale said the increase will swell the payroll about $108,000 annually. Employees will work an eight-hour day, five days a week with time and one-half for overtime. Liberal provisions have been made for holidays and for employee seniority, he said.

After the agreement was reached white and colored pickets were removed from in front of the plant.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

100 WORKERS ON STRIKE AT MISS. VALLEY HARDWOOD CO.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—The second virtually all-Negro conducted strike against a Memphis concern....the one in progress this week at the Mississippi Valley Hardwood Company in South Memphis, on Mallory Avenue..... entered a new phase with reports turned in by pickets to representatives and officials of the CIO (Committee for Industrial Organization), the body which organized the colored men at the plant.

Over one hundred of the company's colored employees (practically the entire force), walked out last week, when company officials failed to meet their demand for an increase in pay.

MAY 23 1941

The strikers want [illegible] for a forty-hour week, instead of the 30c an hour they have been getting. One spokesman explained that the rising cost of living makes it increasingly difficult for a worker to support himself and family on the prevaling wage.

The company offered them a two-cent raise in pay following the walk-out. But the men are holding out for a larger pay boost.

POLICE INVOLVED

Pickets were selected to patrol the plant and prevent other men from taking over the jobs before the dispute could be settled. Something new in strike control was initiated by local authorities, according to one CIO organizer, who revealed that the strikers at the Mississippi Valley plant are allowed to use only two pickets at a time around the plant.

According to reports made to Harry Koger, local CIO organizer, some of the pickets are complaining that police officers detailed to supervise the strike have taken a hostile attiude toward them, threatening them with arrest and punishment. Mr. Koger stated that many of the men felt themselves in serious danger.
GlehcugFPwtm

The extent of their apprehension was indicated by the fact that they had their union officials to communicate with the head of the Civil Liberties division of the United States Department of Justice, Henry Swinehart, and lay their circumstances before him. He is reported to have directed the union leaders to confer wtih Mr. McClanahan head of the local Federal Bureau of Investigation. What the local F. B. I. official has done or will do about the matter has not been learned.

Mr. Koger stated that the complaint was filed in behalf of the Mississippi Valley strikers by William Henderson Jr., member of the Tennessee Council of the C. I. O., and a local organizer of labor for his organization.

Approximately 1000 hardwod and wood workers in Memphis (most of them are Negroes, have been organized into a local of the International Woodworkers of America, under C. I. O. auspices. The local unit has been in operation a little over a month. It is composed chiefly of maintenance and production employees.

Mr. Koger stated that the strikers at the Mississippi Valley plant are uniformly careful, courteous, and orderly in their conduct of their strike. He reported that the company began hiring non-union men early this week, after failing to get the strikers to return to work.

MAY 23

He said that in view of the threats which the men have received from several sources, they are displaying great courage in their effort.

The only other recent strike in which most of the participants were colored men was that at the Desoto Oil Mill, which lasted two weeks. It occurred around three months ago. The strikers, organized by the C. I. O. won their demand for higher pay and better working conditions, after undergoing intimidation and threats.

The Mississippi Valley Company strike had not been settled late last Monday evening.

The reason for police action toward the pickets was not stated.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Memphis Hotel Employes Stage Strike For Higher Wages And A Closed Shop

Demand Increase In Pay Averaging $10 Per Month Per Person

Manager Says Increase To High

JUN 7 1941

MEMPHIS.—(ANP)—Negro employes of the Claridge hotel are out on strike this week demanding higher wages and a closed shop. This is one of the few, if not the only, times that Negro hotel workers have gone on strike in the South.

The hotel workers including waiters, busboys, elevator boys, some cooks, kitchen and laundry employes, are all members of Local No 621 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, According to a union official 123 out of 128 employes walked out.

Lawrence Levy, manager of the hotel, made a public protest that white pickets, including girls, at the doors of the hotel carried signs falsely representing themselves as employes. The union replied that white pickets were used to avoid the racial trouble that Negro pickets might cause.

The hotel manager charged that the strike was a retaliation by Andrew Varvares, international organizer for the union, who was recently locked out of his room because of non-payment of his bill, according to Levy. This Varvares denied saying that after a two weeks absence from the city he returned, paid his bill and left the hotel because he learned that nine members of his union had been discharged.

While the union officials asserted that all deliveries of food and laundry within the hotel were stopped, Levy said, "The hotel restaurant had its best day in several weeks in spite of the strike, and other operations continued without interruptions." Throughout Saturday the hotel broadcast calls for white servants over a local station.

Levy told the union that he could not consider a contract which had been submitted to him because the demands were too high, and the union did not have a majority of both white and Negro employes.

Union demands include: an increase in pay averaging $10 per month per person, one meal while on duty, no deductions for uniforms, a 60-hour week for men and a 48-hour week for women, one week vacation with pay and a closed shop.

The hotel manager said pay increases demanded in the contract were higher than $10 a month, that the maximum hours demanded were superfluous since even now the employes do not work as long as the limits set, and that the Claridge always gives vacations with pay to employes of one year's service. Neither side has yet made any attempt to negotiate.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Hotel Help Strike In Memphis

First Such Walkout in Dixie; White Workers Aid in Picketing

JUN 9 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 8.—Negro waiters, busboys, elevator operators, and kitchen and laundry workers have been on strike for a week at the Claridge Hotel here, probably the first time Negro hotel workers in the South have taken such a step. They are members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, Local [illegible], AFL.

JUN 9 1941

The union, which is demanding an increase in pay averaging $10 a month for each worker, one meal while on duty, no deduction for uniforms, a 60-hour week for men and a 48-hour week for women, one week's vacation with pay and a closed shop, declares that 123 of the 129 employees walked out.

The hotel management has tried to make a public issue of the fact that the union has placed white pickets, including women, in front of the establishment. The union replied that white pickets are used so as to avoid any excuse for trouble.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Hotel Help Strike In Memphis

JUN 9 1941

First Such Walkout in Dixie; White Workers Aid in Picketing

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 8.—Negro waiters, busboys, elevator operators, and kitchen and laundry workers have been on strike for a week at the Claridge Hotel here, probably the first time Negro hotel workers in the South have taken such a step. They are members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, Local 621, AFL.

The union, which is demanding an increase in pay averaging $10 a month for each worker, one meal while on duty, no deduction for uniforms, a 60-hour week for men and a 48-hour week for women, one week's vacation with pay and a closed shop, declares that 123 of the 129 employees walked out.

JUN 9 1941

The hotel management has tried to make a public issue of the fact that the union has placed white pickets, including women, in front of the establishment. The union replied that white pickets are used so as to avoid any excuse for trouble.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WORKERS PICKET FOR HIGHER PAY

351 Tenn

MEMPHIS, June 5—(ANP)—Negro employes of the Claridge hotel are out on strike this week demanding higher wages and a closed shop. This is one of the few, if not the only, times that Negro Hotel workers have gone on strike in the South.

JUN 7 1941

The workers including waiters, busboys, elevator boys, some cooks, kitchen and laundry employes, are all members of Local No. 621 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes union, an A. F. of L. affiliate. According to a union official, 123 out of 129 employes walked out.

Lawrence Levy, manager of the hotel, made a public protest that white pickets, including girls, at the doors of the hotel carried signs falsely representing themselves as employes. The union replied that white pickets were used to avoid the racial trouble that Negroes might cause.

CALL FOR WHITE HELP

The hotel manager charged that the strike was a retaliation by Andrew Varvares, international organizer for the union, who was recently lockedout of his room for non-payment of his bill, according to Levy. This Varvares denied, saying that after a two weeks abscence from the city he returned and paid his bill and left the hotel because he learned that nine members of his union had been discharged.

While the union officials asserted that all deliveries of food and laundry within the hotel were stopped, Levy said, "The hotel restaurant had its best day in several weeks in spite of the strike, and other operations continued without interruptions." Throughout Saturday the hotel broadcast calls for white servants over a local station.

JUN 7 1941

Levy told the union that he could not co[illegible] contract which had been submitted to him because the demands were too high, and the union did not have a majority of both white and Negro employes.

Union demands include: an increase in pay averaging $10 per month per person, one meal while on duty, no deductions for uniforms, a sixty hour week for men and a forty-eight hour week for women, one week vacation with pay and a closed shop.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
June 20, 1941

PUBLIC EMPLOYE LOCAL OF NEGROES WILL MEET

Secretary Walter D. Parks, of Local 272-2, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, issued a call for a meeting of the local for Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at Labor temple, following a four-hour committee conference yesterday with Supt. W. T. Robinson and M. J. Burelbach on the subject of wage scale and hours.

Arrangements considered and results of the conference will be brought before the local for ratification or rejection, Parks stated.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO PICKETS FINED BY CITY COURT JUDGE

Two Arrested At Street Railway Barn

Two former negro employes of Memphis Street Railway Co., arrested Saturday on vagrancy and loitering charges while "picketing" the railway barn in protest of the company's reported refusal to recognize a C. I. O. union of which they were members, were fined in City Court yesterday.

JUL 8 1941

Frank Jefferies, 34, of 627 East Georgia, was assessed $10 on the vagrancy charge and $15 for loitering. Zelmer Robinson, 28, of 245-D Pauline Circle was freed on the vagrancy charge, fined $15 on the loitering charge.

Police said they arrested the negroes when they refused to quit loitering near the barn at Linden and Dunlap. The negroes were carrying signs, police said, protesting that "we were fired because we refused to join Colonel Waring's union." Neither had jobs, police charged.

JUL 8 1941

Robinson testified he was fired by the railway company five weeks ago "because I'm a member of the C. I. O. and they wanted me to join the A. F. of L. local there." He said that he and Jefferies were among "42 C. I. O. members fired for that reason."

Robinson said he had a job. Jefferies testified he was fired two weeks ago and that he had had no employment since.

An official of the Street Railway Company said that there was no strike going on at the transit concern. He said that no C. I. O. men worked for the company and added that the company has had an A. F. of L. union since 1916.

Mr. Watts, officer in the A. F. of L. union there, said his union was recognized as the bargaining agent for the railway company employes. He said there was no labor trouble at the company.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

EIGHT NEGRO STRIKERS ARE FINED, SENTENCED

OCT 18 1941

Accused Of Beating Two O. K. Employes

351 Tenn

Accused of the beating of two employes of the O. K. Storage & Transfer Co., growing out of a strike at the firm, eight negro strikers pleaded guilty in Criminal Court yesterday to charges of assault and battery and were fined and sentenced.

John Easley, 24, of 962 Peach, was fined $25 and sentenced to 30 days in jail, while the other seven were fined $25 and were sentenced to 90 days in jail.

They are Earl Suttles, 21, of 1011 Eastmoreland; Eddie White, 26, of 617½ Beale; L. O. Holmes, 28, of 613-E South Lauderdale; James Carpenter, 26, of 267-B Vance; William Boles, 28, of 360-A South Wellington; Richard Duncan, 29, of 2500 Park Avenue, and John E. Anderson, 22, of 445 East Iowa.

The negroes admitted surrounding a moving van at Trigg and Florida and assaulting its driver and helper with bricks. Beaten were Will Patton, 40, of 362 Vance, the driver, and Jack Small, 50, of 1212 Dorothy Place, who refused to go on strike with the negroes.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGROES SENTENCED FOR LABOR BEATING

Guilty Pleas Are Entered In Criminal Court

351 Tenn

Four negroes accused of beating an employe of the Memphis Street Railway Co. as a result of a C. I. O.-A. F. of L. labor dispute at the transit company, pleaded guilty to a charge of assault and battery in Criminal Court yesterday and were sentenced.

OCT 22 1941

Robert Lee Sims, 23, of 718 McKinley, and Austin Wright, 34, of 681 Josephine, were fined $25 each and sentenced to six months in the Penal Farm. Z. A. Robinson, 28, of 245-D Pauline and O. R. Patton, 27, of 232-D Dixie Mall, were each fined $25 and sentenced to 60 days in jail.

OCT 22 1941

Pleading guilty to obtaining down payments on receipt books which he sold to several Memphis physicians and then failed to deliver, Wade Hopkins, 45, of Dallas, Texas, was sentenced to one year imprisonment on a petit larceny charge.

Floyd Mosier, 38, of 2001 Waverly was sentenced to 11 months and 29 days in the Penal Farm on a charge of passing bad checks. He was arrested in Nashville and returned here.

351-1941

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

STRIKERS BOUND OVER TO GRAND JURY CHARGED WITH FELONY UNDER O'DANIEL LABOR LAW; FACE PRISON SENTENCE

352

Negroes are likely to be the first victims of the newly passed anti-strike law sponsored by Governor Lee O'Daniel. Under this law six men, arrested here Wednesday, face prison sentences of from one to two years.

Facing charges of felony after threatening a garbage truck driver, the men were turned over to the district attorney's office for questioning. They were later bound over to the grand jury.

JUL 19 1941

Texas

Those arrested were: Johnnie Hart, Anthony Rogers, Walter Harvey, Carter Green, James Beally and David Marshall. All were former truck drivers for the company which has the garbage contract for Houston.

According to the driver who is said to have been threatened, the men approached his truck at the corner of Ruthven and Wolson Sts., demanded he leave the truck and turn it over to them or leave it for his boss to pick up. "'We are going to teach you to break union rules,'' the men are said to have threatened.

Leaving the truck on the street, the driver later notified the police who arrested and held the our. They were identified by the driver at headquarters.

JUL 19 1941

The O'Daniel labor law provides for the arrest and sentencing of any person making unlawful the use of force or violence or threats thereof to prevent or attempt to prevent any person from engaging in any lawful vocation and providing penalties for the violation thereof; making it unlawful for any person acting in concert with other persons to assemble and pervent or attempt to prevent by force or violence any person from engaging in a lawful vocation and making it unlawful to encourage and aid such unlawful assemblage and providing penalties for the violation thereof; defining the term ''labor dispute;'' making the provisions of this Act cumulative of existing laws; and providing a severance or saving clause; and declaring an emergency.

The four men arrested, if convicted, are facing prison terms of from one to two years. The O'Daniel act provides postively for no payment of fines.

Section 1 of the Act reads: ''It shall be unlawful for any person by the use of force or violence, or threat of the use of force or violence, to prevent or to attempt to provent any persons from engaging in any lawful vocation within this state. Any person guilty of violating this section shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by confinement in the State Penitentiary for not less than one (1) year, nor more than two (2) years.''

Section 2 of the Act states: ''It shall be unlawful for any person acting concert with one or more persons, to assemble at or near any place where a ''labor dispute'' exists, and by force or violence prevent or attempt to prevent any person from engaging in any lawful vocation, or for any person acting by himself, or as a member of any group or organization acting in concert with one or more other persons, to promote. encourage or aid any such unlawful assemblage. Any person guilty thereof shall be punished by confinement in the State Penitentiary for not less than one (1) year, nor more than two (2) years.

A picket line was thrown around the City Garbage Company Tuesday morning when the management of the company flatly refused to rehire any of the men who had gone on strike and join the Teamsters Union. The picket line has been maintained since that time with the Wednesday evening incident the first flare of violence being reported.

TEXAS

Six Negroes Held Under O'Daniel Anti-Violence Law

352

Six negroes were charged Thursday before Justice Tom Maes with violation of the new O'Daniel anti-labor-violence law.

These were the first such charges filed in Harris county since the law was passed by the legislature several months ago.

JUL 18 1941

Two complaints each were filed against Anthony Rogers, 32, of 3129 Gray; Johnny Hart, 37, of 712 O'Neal; Walter Harvey, 39, of 1615 Victor; Carter Green, 22, of 3012 Tierwester; James Beally, 39, of 3342 Rosalie and Dave Marshall, 42, of 14 Schrimpf.

Post

The negroes were arrested Wednesday night in the 1500 block of West Dallas by Cruising Patrolmen J. L. Seber and Roy E. Floyd after two trucks belonging to the Houston Public Service company, which has the contract to collect garbage, were stopped and their drivers threatened.

Houston Post

Texas

Floyd said the alleged violence occurred on Dumble, between Canal and Harrisburg, and near Ruthven and Wilson.

JUL 18 1941

Picket lines were thrown around the entrances to the company plant last Tuesday morning by the Houston Joint Council 58 of the Teamsters union in protest of the dismissal last July 3 of 30 employes.

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

HARRIS COUNTY GRAND JURY PROBES GARBAGE STRIKE; UNION OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS QUESTIONED; STRIKE LOST

Strikers Charge Union Refused Them Money For Groceries: Workers Beg Their Jobs Back; Landlords Threaten to Put Strikers Out For Rent

The city garbage situation was operating on normal schedule this week while the Harris County Grand Jury launched an investigation of the charges of violence against six strikers. Union officials, workers, officials of the Houston Public Service Company which holds contract with the city to handle garbage collections and several policemen were questioned.

JUL 26 1941

Charges were filed last week when six Negro strikers were arrested for violence on a truck driver. The men arrested were: David Marshall, James Beally, Carter Green, Walter Harvey, Johnnie Hart and Anthony Rogers.

Union Refuses
Strikers Money For Food

It is reported that the strikers were very much discouraged when they appeared at the union headquarters of the teamsters and demanded money to buy grocercies for their families. When they were told there wasn't any money, the union was broke, the men are said to have appeared vicious and used language not found in the Sunday School book. One was heard to say ''My family is hungry. We need money. We have been fooled.''

Monday, several of the strikers and the wives of some, appealed to the company for their jobs back.

Workers who remained on the job are saying to the strikers: '' We tried to get you not to fool with them fellers (meaning teamsters). Look what they did to the Henke and Pillot workers.''

JUL 26 1941

Put Out For Rent

It is rumored that some of the strikers were threatened to be put out for rent by Italian landlords. When the teamsters union heard of this situation, it is said, the officials appealed to the landloards to give the strikers another month to which they replied—''We had nothing to do with the strike and we want our money.''

Trouble has been brewing with the garbage collectors since June 19, when Negro employes went on a brief strike but returned to their jobs when a dispute over work and wage conditions were apparently adjusted.

The workers receive base pay of $13.40 and $14.40 per week plus income from salvage which brings their income to an average of $18 to $21 weekly.

Scheme to Get
Negroes Off Jobs

While the Negro workers were striking to get more money, it was revealed that behind the movement was a scheme to eliminate the 120 race workers from the city garbage department, the only city department where Negroes are employed in appreciable numbers.

JUL 26 1941

It is charged that a Mexican, formerly employed with the Houston Public Service Company entered politics and made a trade for Mexican votes that if certain candidates (city) were elected, the garbage contracts would be let to a contractor who would employ all Mexican labor and the (the Mexican) would get the job as foreman. Not only did the Mexican's plans fail but he lost his job with the company. After this, he started agitation among his Negro ''friends'' employed at the company over wages and work conditions. On June 19, while the Negroes were on strike, he tried to get his job back and Mexicans hired as strikebreakers.

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

NEGRO GARBAGE WORKERS VICTIMS, OF UNIONS AND POLITICS

Sec. 5 357

BY C. W. RICE

AUG 16 1941

The Houston Press in an editorial this week joined political and union forces in an attempt to bring about a change in the city garbage department which would eliminate all Negro workers in that department. The Press urged action soon from the Mayor charging it had reached the conclusion that the garbage workers are trying to get home early and are doing their jobs unsatisfactorily. It called attention to the ever growing complaints filed with the Mayor.

It was unfair for the Press to place the blame of unsatisfactory service on the garbage collectors without explaining the controversy involving the garbage department. It is a well known fact that the garbage department has been a political issue at the City Hall for some time. One group of politicians favored a certain contractor and another group chose another contractor. It happened that the contractor who got the job of garbage collection employed Negro help. The other contractor employs Mexican and White labor. Mexican leaders aided in the fight by supporting with their votes the side that would give the jobs to Mexicans. The next step was agitation among Negro workers for the purpose of slowing up the work, cause strikes and work up general dissatisfaction.

AUG 16 1941

When an attempt was made to tie up the garbage collection and make a "nasty mess" out of the situation, it is reported that the teamsters' union, aided and abetted by some political faction, hired a woman director at a high salary to organize and work up a protest campaign. Letters and telephone complaints were encouraged in the drive and numerous fictitious calls were put in at the City Hall. Housewives were urged to put out extra garbage and use other means to inconvenience the collection. Further, according to charges filed by the Grand Jury, beef squads went around following garbage collectors telling them to leave the garbage. It has happened that thugs preceded the collectors, kicked and turned over garbage cans.

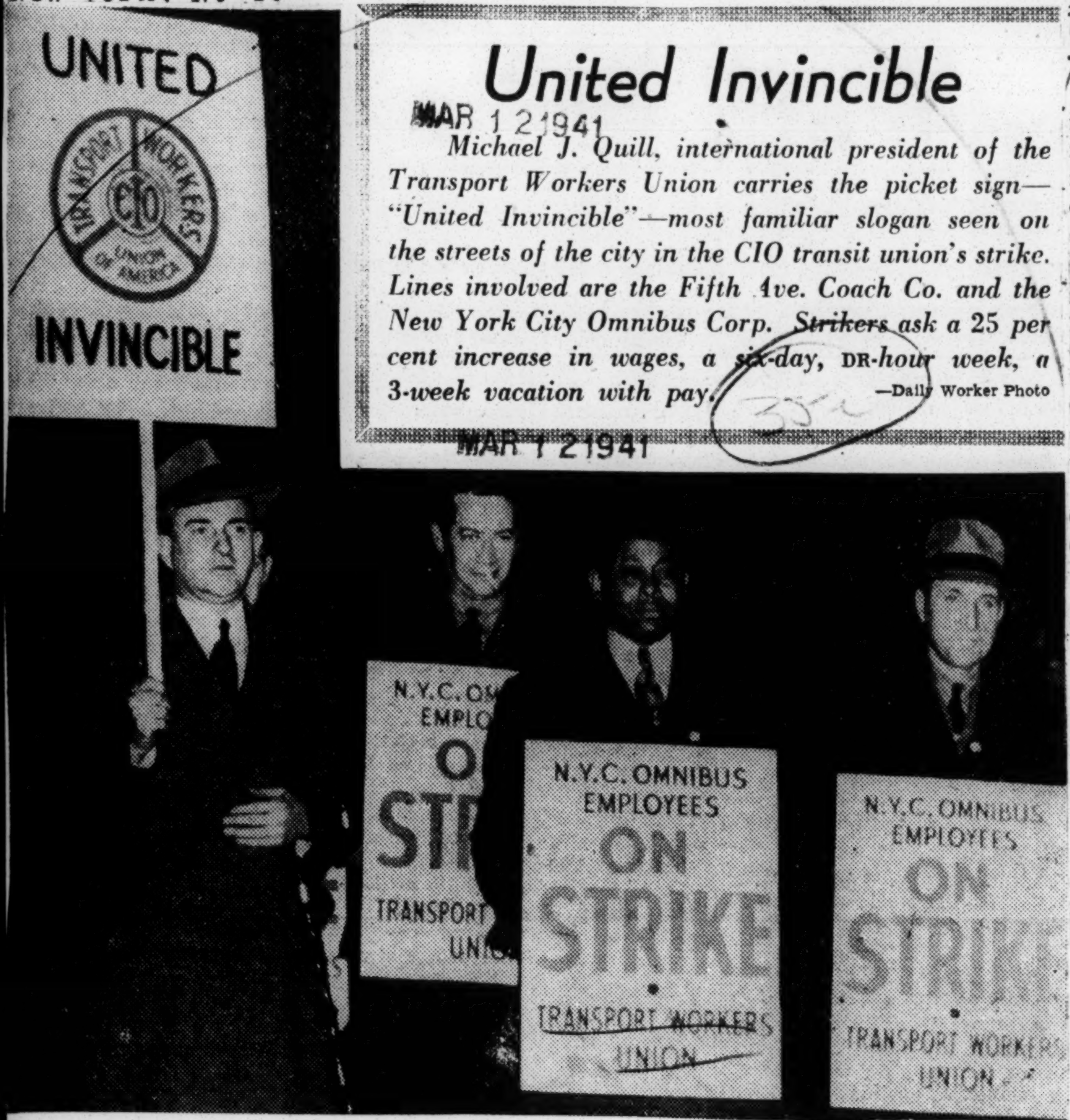
It is only fair that The Press make a thorough investigation and give the public the true facts about the whole situation involving garbage collections without favor.

AUG 16 1941

We do not claim that Negro workers in the garbage department are any more efficient than they are in other occupations where they are engaged. But, we do know from observation and contact with these workers that they are interested in their jobs. They are trying to render the best service possible to their employer. They understand the tricks used against them and most of them know full well that if their employer loses his contract it will mean the end of Negro employment in connection with the city.

It is unfortunate that Negroes are victims of political schemes where they have no voice or vote to help themselves. The Houston Press could help the garbage situation best by urging the **fulfillment of campaign pledges** made by certain city officials that garbage service would be improved by furnishing back door collections. This would prevent hoodlums and animals from destroying the cans and scattering garbage over the lawns.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.



United Invincible

MAR 12 1941

Michael J. Quill, international president of the Transport Workers Union carries the picket sign—"United Invincible"—most familiar slogan seen on the streets of the city in the CIO transit union's strike. Lines involved are the Fifth Ave. Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corp. Strikers ask a 25 per cent increase in wages, a six-day, DR*-hour week, a 3-week vacation with pay.*

—Daily Worker Photo

351

MAR 12 1941

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

The TWU Fights Jim Crow

APR 29 1941

Too often, organized labor is considered no more than a bargaining agency interested in winning better conditions and higher wages for its membership. Such goals are vital and significant. But in addition, progressive unionism can contribute specifically to the political and social scene. In New York City last week, the Transport Workers Union, which has done so much for taxi, subway, and bus workers (so much, indeed, that the union is under continual attack from the state legislature, the city government, and the press) won a victory with implications far wider than the direct benefits it brings to a handful of workers.

APR 29 1941

In conjunction with the National Negro Congress, the Harlem Labor Union, and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment, the union conducted a boycott campaign against the city's two major bus companies which refused to hire Negroes. The boycott broke down discrimination. The companies signed an agreement to hire 100 Negro bus drivers and seventy Negro maintenance men before taking on other new employees. The Negroes are to be hired on an equal basis with the whites. Thereby the union struck a blow at racial discrimination, the shame of America. Once again, CIO shows what it means by its insistence on the defense of democracy. For that which is worth defending must first be given content.

APR 29 1941

Defender of Kuhn Declares Quill Is Lily White, Too

Friend of Bund And Klan Assails The Yellow Press

Edward James Smythe, the pro-Nazi, anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic head of the Protestant War Veterans of the United States, Inc., rose today to the defense of Michael J. Quill and the other leaders of the Transport Workers Union.

JUN 20 1941

In a letter to [illegible] the one-time anti-Communist, who says Fritz Kuhn is a "fine American," defended the union leaders against charges of Communism appearing in the World-Telegram and attributed them to "the smear of La Guardia and the reactionary, yellow press."

"The time has come to pass," says Mr. Smythe, who has organized Ku Klux Klan meetings and spoken before the Nazi Bund, "that some outstanding American who cannot be classed as a Communist speak out in behalf of the T. W. U." He then proceeds to speak.

New York World Telegram

Letter a Surprise.

Mr. Smythe's letter, a copy of which he sent to this paper, came as something of a surprise to the World-Telegram.

JUN 20 1941

For on June 10, after its series on the T. W. U. leadership started to run, he wrote a letter to the writer of the articles. The letter said:

"My dear Woltman—Go up to the headquarters of the T. W. U. on W. 64th St. and have a look at the emblem of the two entrances. That tells the story—the engine of an auto inside of the six pointed (Jewish) star. Sincerely, Edward James Smythe."

New York, N.Y.

In today's letter, however, he writes: "I am sick and tired of these political parasites, like the Mayor, calling every laboring man . . . a Communist simply because he seeks to better his condition and that of his family by asking a few cents more an hour, while under the defense program the political administration at Washington, D. C., gives away to imperialistic Great Britain billions of dollars—the wealth and property of the great American people."

Backs Curran.

Mr. Smythe says also that Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, "is not now or ever was a Communist."

"I know that," he continues. "Am I a Chinese simply because I am in the company of these people whom I greatly admire? Am I a colored man because I address meetings up in Harlem?"

Both letters are written on the letterhead of the Protestant War Veterans, which is located at 149 Vermilyea Ave. The Protestant Chaplains Assn., Inc., is listed as an affiliated organization.

Mr. Smythe's war veterans group has been fighting aid to Britain. So have the pro-Communist heads of the T. W. U.

Listed as Fascist.

Two years ago the Dies committee listed Smythe's War Veterans as one of a group of Fascist organizations including the Silver Shirts, the German-American Bund and the Knights of the White Camellia.

JUN 20 1941

In 1937, as chairman of the National Committee Against Communism, Smythe addressed a mass meeting called to protest the anti-Nazi utterances of Mayor La Guardia. He predicted then a revolution in America would "give it back to Americans and Christians."

Last year he organized the Nazi Bund-Ku Klux Klan meeting at Camp Nordland in New Jersey. In 1935 he urged the German government to demand the release of Bruno Hauptmann, kidnaper of the Lindbergh baby. He said then Hauptmann was the victim of "the hatred of American Jews."

New York World-Telegram
New York, N.Y.
JUN 20 1941

Quill and Subway Crisis

T. W. U. Chiefs Forced Strike On Taxi Drivers

Eleventh article in a series.

By **FREDERICK WOLTMAN,**
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

The Santo-Hogan-Quill machine called the 1940 taxicab strike in spite of the fact the Transport Workers Union was so weak in the taxi field that its executive board virtually had exempted members who drove cabs from paying dues, it was disclosed today.

Almost from the first day (April 24) the strike was a flop. By the end of five weeks it completely petered out, leaving the union's remaining strength in the big fleets shattered.

But Patrick Hagan, an opposition leader, was called a "rat" and a "stoolpigeon" by Michael J. Quill, president, when he spoke against the proposed strike, fought a $2 taxi strike assessment of the whole T. W. U. membership and accused the Quill administration of heading the union into a losing venture.

Later, after he demanded a complete tabulation of the vote on the assessment (which was never given out), Hagan found a dead rat hanging by a string over his workbench at the 148th St. IRT shop.

In various sections opposition groups charge the vote actually went against the assessment.

Hagan, one of the earliest union members and the first to make a union speech outside the IRT shop gate when organizing was worth a man's job, announced he would refuse to pay the assessment until the complete vote results were made public.

Thereafter three men visited his house at 90 Terrace View, crashed through his glass frontdoor and assaulted him with a blackjack. They were never apprehended and there's nothing to connect them in any way with any of the union's officials.

The Santo-Hogan-Quill hierarchy, however, did put a picket line in front of his home.

The story of the T. W. U. in the taxi industry shows what happens under a Communist leadership that's fundamentally interested in a long-run, revolutionary program and in spreading their control over large masses of workers in key industries rather than in building a solid union and improving the working conditions of the members they've got.

The Communist party's policy from the start, also that of Quill, was to "organize everything on wheels" as fast as possible.

The first taxi strike in 1934, which was punctuated by many acts of violence against drivers who eventually would become union members, was engineered openly by the Communist party and its Trade Union Unity League. By 1937 the T. W. U. was strong among the taxi companies. There were 14 taxi members on the executive board, representing a membership of 14,000. Now there are only four, representing a paper strength of 4000.

Actually, according to taximen not in the Quill administration, the T. W. U. had no more than 300 dues-paying members when it called the 1940 strike on the Parmalee and Terminal fleets. Its taxi organization was a farce, they say. Now it's virtually nonexistent.

In the interval the Quill machine had appointed as its taxi division organizer Eugene Connolly, head of the pro-Communist wing of the American Labor party. Connolly himself had never driven a cab nor had any experience in the industry until he started organizing.

Catholics Charged Red Rule.

The Assn. of Catholic Trade Unionists, a strongly pro-labor group approved by the Catholic Church which supported the T. W. U. leadership for years, has charged that Connolly's appointment was dictated by Rose Wortis. Miss Wortis, a leading Communist, heads the New York State Party's labor-union activities and has exerted important behind-the-scenes influence in the T. W. U.

Connolly was resented by many of the drivers, according to the ACTU. Another cause of dissatisfaction, says the ACTU, was the fact that [illegible] stewards or delegates could hold office unless approved by the party.

Meanwhile, the union officialdam began to go in for politics in a big way. Quill ran for City Council and all the union's resources were thrown behind him. Fascism, the Spanish embargo, the problem of the Irish, Negro, Mexican, Spanish, Indian and other downtrodden and remote peoples took up the time of the Hogan-Santo-Quill triumverate and their associates, all strictly in line with Communist party policy.

At the same time taxi contracts were not policed, minimum-wage provisions were violated right and left, men were fired without redress. Resentment mounted and taxi drivers stopped paying dues.

Dues Concession Granted.

The situation finally got so bad the Quill-controlled executive board ruled taxi members could remain in good standing by paying only a dollar a year dues, although everyone else had to pay $1.25 and $1.50 a month. In nearly every other union, C. I. O. or A. E. F., dues are regularly at least $1-a-month, even for the lowest paid workers.

The rule was passed without submitting it to the membership.

The ACTU group contends the Taxi Division is valuable to the Quill machine for political purposes. It is loosely organized and easy to control and it's impossible to check on the number of drivers in good standing.

As proof, they say the opposition was not allowed to have watchers at the polls during the 1939 election for president of the New York Local.

In the final outcome, Austin Hogan, one-time Communist, got 13,231 votes; his opponent, J. W. Gallagher, 7633. Generally the ratio was like that: On the IRT 5 to 3; the BMT 3 to 2; Fifth Ave. Coach 7 to 3; Omnibus Co., 6 to 5; Third Ave. Railway, nearly 50-50.

But in the Taxi Division out of some 1000 votes counted, only 30 went to the opposition.

Assessment Beaten in Vote.

When the 1940 taxi strike was decided on, the $2 assessment had to be voted at the New York Local's 100-or-so sections. These are the small units into which the huge New York Local (it claims 50,000 members) is divided.

All three of the high-powered leaders, Quill, Santo and Hogan, showed up at the meeting of Section 1 of the 148th St. shop of the IRT. They gave the usual speeches on the necessity of a taxi strike and made it clear that anybody who opposed the strike was a "rat" and a "stoolpigeon."

Hagan objected. He said the taxi organization was a farce and half the drivers would stay at [illegible] the first day of the strike and rest return later, which seems to be just about what happened.

He demanded a vote. Out of about 600 present, the assessment was defeated [illegible] to 1.

Meantime, other sections were told that Section 1 had overwhelmingly voted FOR the assessment, according to the ACTU lawyer, John J. Sheehan, of 32 Broadway. Since the 148th St. Shop Section was the first unionized on the IRT, it enjoys a special prestige.

Nevertheless, other sections voted against it, too. But Hogan refused to give out the combined tally. The opposition claimed the assessment—and therefore the strike authorization—lost and the union said it won.

Hagan then found the dead rat hanging over his workbench.

And the only people to get anything out of the strike were the independent and owner-driver taxi men who flocked into Times Sq. for extra fares.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.
JUL 3 1941

Union Names First Negro As Counsel

NEW YORK (ANP)—A singular distinction has been handed to Atty. Hope R. Stevens, in that for the past month he has been serving as a special counsel to the New York local of the Transport Workers Union, C. I. O., it was learned this past week.

TWU, in which about 2,000 colored employes of the unified transit system in the city are organized, by appointing counselor Stevens is believed to be showing the liberal attitude it had earlier shown when Dr. Richard M. Carey was made a physician of the union.

Mr. Stevens, president of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro congress and for long active in labor movements, will be attached to the staff of Harry Sacher, general counsel for the TWU. It is expected that he will be able to serve the Negro members more satisfactory because of a freer inclination on their part to discuss matters with him. His work, however, will not necessarily be confined to any racial segment of the union, it was stated.

The new counsel is a graduate of the Brooklyn Law school of St. Lawrence university. He was admitted to the New York bar in 1937 and has been practicing since 1938. He is the junior partner in the law firm of Reape and Stevens, one of the only two law partnerships in Harlem today. The other is that of Delaney and Lewis.

——A Colored Judge——

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Lewis Again

CRACKS WIDE OPEN THE NORTH-SOUTH WAGE DIFFERENTIAL

MAY 10 1941

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

WHETHER you like John L. Lewis' politics or not (and I don't) you've got to hand it to him again. Lewis has cracked the north-south wage differential wide open and that was more than N. R. A. could do; more than Secretary of Labor Perkins could do; and more than President Roosevelt could. or would. do. This north-south wage differential effects not only the 50 to one hundred thousand Negro coal miners but sets a precedent for workers in other industries to fight against this injustice.

Mr. Cayton

In the recent controversy between the coal operators and Lewis' union the northern operators were willing to raise wages from $6 a day to $7 a day because the increased wage was passed on to the consumer as part of the government-fixed price of coal. But the southern operators balked because they did not want to lose their differential by meeting Lewis' demand for equal pay for both sections. Although it has not been definitely settled at this writing, my bet is that Lewis wins.

WAGE DIFFERENTIALS

The regional wage differenials are supposedly aimed at the higher freight rates which southern operators have to pay to compete with northern fields. This differential is taken out of labor's share of the returns from that industry and justified, usually upon the grounds that the standard of living in the South is lower than that in the North.

MAY 10 1941

During the N. R. A. period the racial factor behind the facade of economic reasoning was brought out into the open. In the Steel Code for example, the highest wage in northern areas was 40c an hour as compared with the low wage for southern areas of 25c for common labor. In speaking about this differential at one of the hearings, Secretary of Labor Perkins stated:

BASED ON NEGRO LABOR

The low rates of 25c and 27c per hour for the two southern districts are presumably based on the predominance of Negro labor in those districts.

But Negroes are also consumers. Their purchasing power is needed to provide different markets for the products of agriculture and industry. Their cost of living is not lower than the living costs of whites; it is rather that they live differently and on a lower standard. A sound, national industrial system cannot be based on a capitalization of these lower living costs. A way must be found of gradually raising the living standards of the colored laborers, and increased wages that will not unfairly compete with the wages of the white laborers is essential to achieve this end.

MAY 10 1941

During the various hearings of the N. R. A., feeling became so intense that a Birmingham chemical manufacturer stated that "Sherman's march to the sea was no more destructive than the N. R. A. is going to be on the South. Before it is over, we may have secession." To pacify the insurgent southern manufacturers, President Roosevelt finally came out and gave left-handed approval of the differentials in the following language:

> **On the question of southern wage differentials, the Recovery Act recognizes differentials according to locality. It is not the purpose of the administration, by sudden or explosive change, to impair southern industry by refusing to recognize traditional differentials.... it is not our intention to produce any sudden or disruptive change in an established economic relationship.**

COULDN'T FIND WAY

Well, Secretary Perkins could not find a way of raising the living standards of the colored laborers of the South and President Roosevelt had to capitulate to the pressure of southern industrialists but John L. Lewis did it with his little gun—The United Mine Workers of America.

MAY 10 1941

And the South didn't secede, although the southern operators stalked out of meetings and gave the same arguments about "subnormal black and white labor." All of this had some effect during the N. R. A. period and caused Miss Perkins to wish hopefully and pensively that the Negro might not be discriminated against—but do nothing; and caused Mr. Roosevelt to pull the fire of the administration's fight for increased buying power, but it didn't bluff Johnnie Lewis. This should lead Negro laborers to speculate upon whether it is enough to vote the Democratic ticket and leave everything in the hands of the Great White Father, or if it is necessary in addition to join a labor union and fight for their rights.

POSITIVE RESULTS

The above illustrates the positive results which can accrue to Negro workers from a militant labor organization. There is another side which should also be considered. The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's suit has established the precedent for majority rule in collective bargaining.

MAY 10 1941

This means that if Negroes do not join unions where they have an opportunity to do so, or join company dominated unions, the majority of the workers can be recognized as the bargaining agents and eliminate the Negro from any voice in the union and open the door to his being frozen out of employment. If Negro leaders and workers cannot see the advantages in belonging to unions such as Lewis', they should see the danger in refusing to belong if that organization is recognized as the bargaining agent. All of which goes to indicate that Negroes will either learn or be eliminated.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WE UNDERSTAND, MR. LEWIS

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, in his letter to President Roosevelt declining to call off the strike in the so-called "captive" mines, complained that the responsible, policy-making officials of the companies involved had refused to discuss the issues with him and had turned him over to inferior officials without true authority.

NOV 1 1941

We are against any strikes by any unions which will impede America's war effort.

But we can understand only too well the position Mr. Lewis has taken. Too many times, Negroes, with their vital interests at stake, are shunted off to deal with inferior officials in private industry and public office. Too many times have the offices of those who make policy been closed to us. We know how damned mad it can make anyone.

We recall that Great Britain employed such tactics with Russia with the result that the opening of the present war found Russia in Hitler's camp.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Hank" Johnson

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

CAYTON MOURNS TEMPORARY ECLIPSE OF NEGRO LEADER WHO WAS ELEVATED BY JOHN L. LEWIS AND REMAINED LOYAL TO END

NOV 29 1941

WE HAVE not had many Negro labor leaders of ability who have achieved national prominence and I think that it is fitting that this column note the "shelving" of one of the newest and best. I am referring to Henry Johnson of ~~the United Mine Workers,~~ who was just annihilated in Detroit along with his leader, John L. Lewis. Johnson was, and is a staunch Lewis man. He chose to stand and fall with his chief, and like his chief, his influence and power in the labor movement is over until the merry-go- round of circumstances again comes around to his stop. In view of his ability and willingness to work, I have no doubt that sooner or later that will come about.

Mr. Cayton

Johnson is 36 years old—a big strapping fellow who looks like a college football player. He has been in the labor movement only a few years, first, becoming interested in the International Workers Order in 1934. Soon after he became connected with that organization he moved to Chicago to attend the National Negro Congress and stayed on to organize in that city. When the C.I.O. was formed, Johnson was hired by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in the Calumet region. His ability to get along with men of all races, his power and effectiveness as a speaker and his physical courage made him a valuable asset to the organization during the early stormy period and during the bloody campaign in "Little Steel." Van A. Bittner, then in charge of the organizational work, recognized his unique qualifications and sent him all over the western division as an organizer.

MOST POWERFUL LEADER

LATER, when there was a movement to organize the packing houses in Chicago, Johnson was transferred to the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee and eventually became its assistant national director. At that time Johnson was a national figure and was undoubtedly the most powerful Negro in the CIO and this was partly due to the high esteem in which John Lewis held this young Negro leader. On July 16, 1938, Johnson sat on the platform at a mass meeting with John L. Lewis and Bishop Bernard J. Shield, archbishop of the Catholic church in Chicago, and was referred to by Lewis as "my good and true friend, Hank Johnson." That was the high point of his career. I don't believe that any other Negro labor leader in the country held as important and powerful a position as did he at that moment.

NOV 29 1941

SUPPORTED WILLKIE

JOHNSON'S difficulties began when the fight within the CIO developed between Lewis and some of his lieutenants. When Lewis came out for Willkie most of his followers, including Phil Murray and the other officers of the United Mine Workers, deserted him. Johnson, at that time pretty closely tied up with the left wing faction of the CIO, supported Lewis and Willkie. This lost him the support of the Packing House Workers union. Even before Lewis had broken with the left wing unions, Johnson had become a persona non grata in those circles which made him vulnerable and open to attack from both the left and right factions. Lewis, who put him on the miners' payroll, was his only support.

NOV 29 1941

ON SHELF NOW

In Detroit, Johnson was among the small group of mine workers who stayed with Lewis until the end. He did it because he thought the policies of his chief were right. He did it consciously, knowing full well the consequences, for Johnson is as sure footed as a mountain goat in the maze of union politics. Johnson, like Lewis, is through as a national figure, at least for the time being. Perhaps another CIO Negro labor leader will rise to national statue and occupy a position similar to Philip Randolph's in the A.F.L. But the shuffle of events has put Johnson away until the national crisis is over and until John L. regains his power and prestige in the labor movement.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

REPLACE HIM FOR NOTE TO RACE MINERS

DEC 6 1941

Substitute Powell On New York 'Bill Of Rights' Program

NEW YORK. — In a wire charging him of "betraying labor's cause," the Workers Defense League Friday withdrew its invitation to Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, first congressional district of Illinois, who had agreed to participate in a symposium on "Is The Bill of Rights In Danger?" Thursday, December 4, at Labor Stage in New York City.

The action came as a result of a statement made by Mitchell, which called upon Negro miners to act as strike breakers in the recent UMWA strike against the captive miners.

Mitchell had said, "I call upon the Negro miners in the captive mines and in other coal mines throughout the United States to stand loyally by this country and the government in this great crisis. Negroes could make no greater mistake than to allow John L. Lewis to influence and persuade them to follow him in his wild tirade against the interest of the United States government." . . . "My appeal to every Negro miner in the United States is to show his loyalty now by standing firmly by the government and refusing to strike."

DEC 6 1941

Announcements of the meeting, printed before Congressman Mitchell's statement on the mine strike, carry the congressman's name. Tickets to the meeting list New York councilman-elect Adam Clayton Powell in his place.

Other speakers include George S. Counts, president, American Federation of Teachers; Frank Rosenblum, vice president of the C.I.O.; W. W. Rogers, the new secretary of the American Newspaper guild; John F. Finerty, counsel for sharecropper Odell Waller.

The Workers Defense league wire to Congressman Mitchell follows:

"We are compelled to cancel our invitation to you to speak at our symposium on 'Is the Bill of Rights in Danger?' Thursday evening, December 4th in New York, in view of your statement reported in the Chicago Tribune, November 20th, regarding the strike of UMWA against captive mines.

"The Workers Defense league is dedicated to the preservation of labor's democratic rights, and we feel that you have betrayed labor's cause in calling upon Negro mine workers to act as strike-breakers. We deplore also your advice to Negro miners, which if followed, would set race against race resulting in further discrimination against Negro workers. We agree thoroughly with criticism of your advice on UMWA strike issued by President Willard Townsend of United Transport Service employees."

This wire was signed by Morris Milgram, national secretary, Workers Defense league.

DEC 6 1941

Mitchell who has repeatedly displayed his ignorance of current events and his lack of sound judgement through his statements, was immediately attacked after releasing his statement by Townsend and other labor leaders.

Townsend in reprimanding Mitchell said in part:

"This statement which you have addressed to the Negro miners clearly indicates your lack of knowledge of the fight being made by Negroes to eliminate the race question from the trade union movement.

"Perhaps you have not even realized that the economic welfare of the Negro lies in a free and unprejudiced labor movement where workers are recognized on the basis of ability to deliver and not on the basis of color.

"Then, too, perhaps you have forgotten that President Roosevelt issued a proclamation against discrimination in employment in government agencies because of race and unquestionably you have overlooked the Fair Employment Practice committee whose job it is to see that workers are employed without note being taken of color of their skin and to further see that discriminating trade unions who participate in denying the employment of persons because of race be revealed through its hearings."

Aroused by what was described as "reckless" and "irresponsible conduct" on the part of Mitchell, Negro labor leaders in C.I.O., A.F. of L., and unaffiliated unions whose leaders are associated with the Midwest Labor service bureau, also sent a blistering protest to Mitchell condemning him for injecting the race issue in the captive mines dispute.

DEC 6 1941

In its letter to Mitchell the Labor Service bureau, on behalf of its membership who are the recognized leaders of the thousands of workers residing in the Congressional district represented by Mitchell, charged:

"This action which you advised the Negro miners to take, would again expose the Negro workers to the murderous cross-fire of organized capital and organized labor and the federal government would be helpless to protect him.

"As a representative of all the people we see absolutely no justification for your effort to make a public issue of placing the Negro miner in the dilemma of having to choose between President Roosevelt and patriotism on the one hand and John L. Lewis and 300,000 fellow miners on the other.

DEC 6 1941

"A specific appeal to Negroes on this issue is irresponsible in the extreme. Your action injects a race issue where none exists. If your advice is sound, it should have been directed to all workers involved; not just Negroes."

The statement was signed by George F. McCray, director of the Midwest Labor Service bureau; W. S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees union; William Young, grievance chairman, Steel Workers Organizing committee; Doc Williams of the Packing House Workers Organizing committee; Leon D. Caruthers general secretary of the Cook County Plumbers union; Robert Mitchell B. B. Darden, Oscar Hutton and Henry Johnson, assistant director United Mine workers.

35i-1941 UNITED TRANSPORT EMPLOYES OF AMERICA

RED CAPS TELL U. S. JU

LEADERS IN RED CAPS' FIGHT FOR $827,000 BACK WAGES

FEB 1 1941 FEB 1 1941

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa

Atty. Leon Despres, top, chief counsel for the Red Caps' Union in its fight for $827,000 back wages, allegedly belonging to 1,068 Red Caps, is shown congratulating Felix Barxton, of Jackson, Miss., for making such an excellent witness. Williard Townsend, president of the union, and John L. Yancey, secretary-treasurer, look on.

Bottom: Other important witnesses in the Federal Court suit still in progress in Chicago are, left to right: Morris Socks, Chicago; Harold Sterling, Felix Braxton, Herman Barnett, Robert Hood, Horace Hale, and Robert C. Tucker. Judge Phillip L Sullivan will render the decision in the case after final arguments.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

35i

Red Caps Win Round In Case Against 10c Fee

Public Hearings On Question To Be Held in Oct.

JUL 22 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (SNS) —The intensified and bitterly fought four-year old struggle of the United Transport Service Employees of America for the complete integration of the red cap into the American transportation service came to a dramatic and highly successful close last week when the Interstate Commerce Commission made public its decision in the case of Stopher vs. Cincinnati Union Terminal Company.

A companion case to the September 1938 decision which originally held red caps to be employees of the railroads, out of this case the Interstate Commerce Commission definitely established case and for all that red cap service in carrying handbaggage is an integral part of railroad transportation service and that the whole system of "red capping" is taken from the dubious, casual and uncontrolled designation of the rail roads and is placed under the protection of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The railroads had built their entire case on the collection of the 10c bag fee around the assumption that rep cap service was a casual and personal, and incidental service similar to that provided for in dining cars, restaurants, barber shops and other station conveniences which travelers may use if they desire.

The Commission decided that the payment of a passenger fare direct automatically included red service and the carrying of bags. The Commission also expressed its opinion that the 10c charge was reasonable in law, however, the Cincinnati Union Terminal Company, and by influence, all other railroads, also ordered to file its tariff and schedule on or before October 1, 1941. Public hearings will be held to determine the reasonableness of the charge and its application.

JUL 22 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ERNEST CALLOWAY OPPOSES SERVICE, POINTS TO RECORD

JAN 1 1 1941

CHICAGO, Jan. 9. (ANP)—Ernest Calloway, educational director of the United Transport Employes of America and who had one of the first numbers called in the selective service lottery in Washington, is opposed to conscription because "the present United States army is the most anti-democratic institution in American governmental life," he told his local draft board on receipt of his questionnaire a few days before Christmas. He asked to be exempted until "true citizenship" is conferred upon him.

The Red Cap official's complete statement in which he protests being drafted follows:

"As a Negro, I have accepted many of the responsibilities of my limited citizenship without benefit of a number of its blessings. To me, the present United States army is the most anti-democratic institution in American governmental life. Its callous disregard for the elementary principles of fair-play with Negro citizens, reeks of 18th century 'mercenarism' instead of an army, by, for and of the people.

"The constant refusal of this military branch of our government to pursue a non-discriminatory policy in its attitude towards all the citizens is far out of proportion with the large measure of social, economic and political progress that has been made during the past few years in America. For a number of decades, the U. S. army has withstood democratization, especially in its relations to Negroes, and there is no visible indication of an immediate change in this vicious racial status quo despite the fact that American democracy is preparing for its greatest struggle against the forces of ignorance, prejudice and dictatorship.

"The practice of relegating special types of service to Negroes and refusing their services in other branches of the armed forces is neither conducive to effective morale or obeying the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States. When the U. S. army denies me or any other Negro the right and opportunity to make an equal contribution to the welfare and defense of my country, it violates a basic right guaranteed to me by the Constitution.

"Therefore, to insist upon my participation in the selective service training program without giving me the guarantees of equality of citizenship in the operation of the armed service places certain liabilities upon my honor, integrity and self-respect. For these reasons, I cannot accept the responsibility of taking the oath upon induction into military service under the present anti-democratic structure of the U. S. army, and ask to be exempted from military training until such time that my contribution and participation in the defense of my country can be made on a basis of complete equality."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RED CAPS VERSUS RAILROADS

The greatest credit is due the militant members of the United Transport Service Employes Union (Red Caps) for the spirited and intelligent fight they have waged to dignify the work in which they are engaged and obtain a living wage for it.

FEB 1 5 1941

This young union of Negroes, whites and Japanese, under the able leadership of President Willard S. Townsend, has not only obtained better working conditions for red caps, but has brought to the United States District Court of Illinois its $1,600,000 wage recovery suit against eight major railroads, and now awaits a decision.

If it is successful in this effort, hundreds of dollars will be placed in individual Negro pockets and a new dignity and respect will be attained by these workers.

For many years there had been talk of organizing red caps into a union, but even the most optimistic were a little doubtful about the success of such an effort.

It seemed that the men constituting the bulk of this service group were unorganizable and, even then, they drew no wages.

Mr. Townsend and his associates have given the lie to the pessimists.

They have demonstrated once more that even the lowliest Negro workers can be organized and that organization means power.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BACK PAY FIGHT NEARS END; PLAN MORE WAGE SUITS

CHICAGO, Feb. 6—In a courtroom packed with red caps, station officials, railroad executives and many interested observers, the dramatic nine-day trial of the $1,600,000 wage recovery suit instituted by approximately 1,100 red cay members of the United Transport Service Employees Union against 8 major railroad companies before the U. S. District Court at Chicago ended Wednesday, January 29, with an oral order by Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan granting 60 days for the filing of briefs by both sides, after which time a decision will be rendered in the historic wage suit.

The brilliant and masterly presentation of the case by Leon M. Despres, General Counsel for the United Transport Service Employees Union, left no doubt in the minds of the many court room observers as to the merits of the red caps contention for 18 months unpaid wages under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Mr. Despres was assisted in the direct handling of the case by Associate Counsel, M. J. Myers of Chicago. Serving in an advisory capacity were Attorney George E. C. Hayes of Washington; George Roewer, Boston; Theodore Berry, Cincinnati and Fred Mandel of Cleveland. Preparations are being made by these attorneys to handle similar suits in their respective sections of the country. Railroads included in this suit were: New York Central, Pennsylvania, Illinois Central, Western Indiana, Santa Fe, Northwestern, Rock Island and Milwaukee roads.

President Willard S. Townsend was the first witness called to the stand for the red caps. Mr. Townsend's testimony dealt with the historical background and general situation among red caps throughout the country and the circumstances leading to the institution of the suits by the union. Other witnesses called by the union were: Arthur Moon, E. L. Robinson, Horace Hale, Morris Socks, Robert Hood, R. E. Tucker, James Nichols, Eugene Shepard, Raymond Stevens and Robert Chapman, Jr., of Chicago; Emanuel Keiffer of New Orleans; Felix Braxton, Jackson, Miss.; John Bowers and Ezra Parrott of New York City; Stephen Wright, Baltimore; Elmer Traynham and Ira Valentine, Pittsburgh; I. A. Holder, Buffalo; L. W. Felix Braxton of Jackson, Miss. Braxton vividly portrayed the hardship under which he and other red caps had to work. He testified that although only making 40 and 50 cents a day in tips, he was compelled, under threat of discharge, to report to company officials tips equal to the minimum wage established by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Another high light of the trial came when Attorney Theodore Schmidt, representing the Pennsylvania Railroad attempted to introduce as evidence in the case a brief filed by the UTSEA before the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1938 in the employee status case of red caps. After argument in support of introducing this brief as evidence, Judge Sullivan ruled that it was incompetent evidence and not admissable.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

$1,600,000 Red Caps Back Wage Fight Nearing Close

JAN 26 1941

CHICAGO—(A N P)—The United States district court in this city has been the scene of one of the key suits in a series of nation-wide civil actions filed against railroads by the United Transport Service Employes of America. It was expected that final arguments in the $1,600,000 wage recovery suit of the red caps against eight railroads would be presented in court Monday.

The suit is concerned with the payment of 18 months' back wages and indemnity to 75 percent of the nation's red caps' salaries. In this particular suit which covers more than 1,000 employes, recent figures filed by railroads before the federal court show that between October, 1938, and in early 1940, these employes worked a total of 3,138,509 hours to earn under the provisions of the Fair Standards Labor act, $840,677, of which they were actually paid $65,058. The difference of $775,018 is the amount being sued for by the U. T. S. E. A.

Eight Railroads Are Defendants In Pay Case

JAN 26 1941

Red Caps are being represented by Leon M. Depres and M. J. Meyers, Chicago attorneys. Here to serve in an advisory capacity are Attorneys George E. C. Hayes, Washington; George Roewer, Boston; Theodore Berry, Cincinnati; and Fred Mandel, Cleveland.

Each of these attorneys is handling suits similar to the Chicago case to be brought to trial in various courts throughout the country.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

RED CAP TESTIFIES AS EXPERT ON TIPS

They Range From 'Thank You' to $5, but in 25 Years He Has Had Only One of Latter

USUALLY A DIME IS GIVEN

Quarter Tippers Rare but He Tells Chicago Court He Can Spot a 'Right Guy' at Once

JAN 26 1941

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25—For twenty-five years the tipping habits of the American traveling public have been the particular study of John A. Bowers, Red Cap in the Grand Central Terminal in New York City. By his own admission he can tell a "stiff" (one who does not tip) from a "right guy" as soon as he gets off a train.

Bowers was called to give Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan the benefit of his expert knowledge in a suit which the International Brotherhod of Red Caps brought to collect $1,600,000 from eight railroads. The railroads are charged with failure to pay the minimum wage fixed by law from October, 1938, until last July, when Red Caps were placed on regular payrolls.

"Tips," Bowers said, "range from not so much as a 'thank you' to $5. Ten cents is a popular fee that may include carrying a truck load of bundles. Twenty-five cent tips are unusual, dollar tips are rare, and $5 tips are almost unheard of.

"But you do get $1 and $5 tips now and then, don't you," asked Harold E. Christensen, of counsel for the New York Central Railroad.

"Five dollar tips are so rare that I've seen only one in twenty-five years," Bowers replied. "I worked three hours to get it. The service was worth every penny of the tip.

"I was assigned to meet a man with a broken hip who had come to New York to have X-rays made. I helped him off the train, put him in a wheelchair, obtained permission to leave the station, took him to his doctor, waited until the pictures were made, and then returned with him to the station.

JAN 26 1941

"There I telephoned to his wife and arranged to meet her at the station later. When she came I met her, transferred her baggage and her husband's to another train. I got my only $5 tip for that service."

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

$1,600,000 Red Cap Wage Fights Nears Close of Argument

FEB 1 1941

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—The United States district court in this city has been the scene of one of the key suits in a series of nation-wide civil actions filed against railroads by the United Transport Service Employees of America. It was expected that final arguments in the $1,600,000 wage recovery suit of the red caps against eight railroads would be presented in court Friday.

The suit is concerned with the payment of 18 months' back wages and indemnity to 75 per cent of the nation's red caps' salaries. In this particular suit which covers more than 1,000 employees, recent figures filed by railroads before the federal court show that between October 1938, and in early 1940, these employees worked a total of 3,138,509 hours to earn under the provisions of the Fair Standards Labor act, $840,677, of which they were actually paid $65,058. The difference of $775,018 is the amount being sued for by the U. T. S. E. A.

Red caps are being represented by Leon M. Depres and M. J. Meyers, Chicago attorneys. Here to serve in an advisory capacity are Attys. George E. C. Hayes, Washington; George Roewer, Boston; Theodore Berry, Cincinnati, and Fred Mandel, Cleveland.

Each of these attorneys is handling suits similar to the Chicago case to be brought to trial in various courts throughout the country.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Tipping Expert Testifies In Suit Of Negro Red Caps

FEB 1 1941

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)— For 25 years the tipping habits of the American traveling public have been the particular study of John A. Bowers, red cap in the Grand Central terminal in New York City. By his own admission he can tell a "stiff" (one who doesn't tip) from a "right guy" as soon as he gets off a train.

He was called last week to give Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan the benefit of his expert knowledge in a suit which the red caps union brought to collect $1,600,000 from eight railroads.

Minimum Wage 30 Cents Per Hour

The minimum wage for red caps was fixed by law beginning October 24, 1939, the minimum was raised to 30 cents an hour. The suit charges that the railroads failed to pay the men the difference between what they receved in tips and the fixed minimum wages during the period from October 24, 1938 and last July, when red caps were placed on regular pay rolls.

"Tips", says Bowers, "range from not so much as a 'thank you' to $5. Ten cents is a popular fee that may include carrying a truck load of bundles. Twenty-five cent tips are unusual, $1 tips are rare, and $5 tips are almost unheard of."

Similar testimony from more than a score of red caps is expected to be introduced before the trial ends.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Court Study Wage Claim Of Red Caps

JAN 11 1941

$45,490 In Back Wages Sought By 66 Baggagemen

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—(ANP)—The suit to recover from the Terminal Railroad Association $45,490 claimed to be due 66 red caps at Union Station as back wages under the Wage-Hour Law was taken under advisement by United States District Judge George H. Moore last week after submission of an agreed statement of facts and arguments by counsel for both sides.

In the agreed statement of facts it was shown that the red caps received $55,157 in tips for carrying luggage of travelers during the period from Oct. 24, 1938, when the law became effective and last Jan. 6, when the suit was filfied.

Carleton S. Hadley, counsel for the terminal, contended that gratuities to employees belonged to the employer, and referred to an agreement of Oct. 24, 1938, under which the Terminal guaranteed payment of the minimum legal wage to the extent tips did not reach the minimum.

JAN 11 194

Judge Moore asked whether the company had reported the tips as income and Hadley replied he did not know but thought not.

Charles M. Hay, representing the red caps, argued that any contract to violate a provision of the law was void. He remarked that, even if the red caps got the $45,490 in addition to the $55,1577 in tips, the total would amount only to about $100 a month for each man.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Red Caps, Pullman Porters, Waiters to Share Salary Increase, Effective March 1

JAN 17 1941

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — A $7,000,000 plum will be divided among the red caps, Pullman porters and dining car waiters annually as a result of a ruling by the wages and hours division according to Administrator Philip B. Fleming, with 70,000 men participating in the salary raise accorded them.

Wage increases, to become effective on March 1, will effect other employes it is said.

The order will make effective recommendations of the Railroad Carrier Industry committee for minimum wages of 36 cents an hour for employes on trunk lines and 33 cents an hour for short lines.

JAN 17 1941

"About 65,000 of the 1,000,000 or more persons employed by the trunk line railroads and the Pullman company and several other agencies will receive a wage increase under the 33-cent minimum," Fleming said.

Railroads principally affected by the order and the amount of additional wages to be paid employes were announced as follows. Seaboard Air Line, $688,000; Atlantic Coast Line, $611,000; Southern, $12,000; Louisville and Nashville, $136,000; Rock Island, $126,000; International-Great Northern, 109,000. Illinois Central, $443,000; Texas and New Orleans, $15,000; Missouri Pacific, $385,000; Central of Georgia, $212,000; Southern Pacific, $165,000; Florida East Coast, $127,000.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

RED CAPS PAY CLAIM UNDER ADVISEMENT

JAN 5 1941

$45,000 Suit To U.S. Dist. Court

ST. LOUIS.—(ANP)—The suit to recover from the Terminal Railroad association $45,490 claimed to be due 66 red caps at Union Station as back wages under the Wage-Hour law was taken under advisement by United States District Judge George H. Moore Wednesday after submission of an agreed statement of facts and arguments by counsel for both sides.

In the agreed statement of facts it was shown that the red caps received $55,157 in tips for carrying luggage of travelers during the period from October 24, 1938, when the law became effective and last January 6, when the suit was filed.

JAN 5 1941

Carleton S. Hadley, counsel for the terminal, contended that gratuities to employees belonged to the employer, and referred to an agreement of October 24, 1938, under which the Terminal guaranteed payment of the minimum legal wage to the extent tips did not reach the minimum.

Judge Moore asked whether the company had reported the tips as income and Hadley replied he did not know but thought not.

Charles M. Hay, representing the red caps, argued that any contract to violate a provision of the law was void. He remarked that, even if the red caps got the $45,490 in addition to the $55,157 in tips, the total would amount only to about [illegible] a month for each man.

JAN 5 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

JUDGE STUDIES RED CAPS CASE

FEB 8 1941

Arguments Ended in Suit Involving $1,600,000 In Back Wages

CHICAGO — Trial of a suit to collect $1,600,000 allegedly due members of the United Transport Service Employees of America (Red Caps) was completed in Federal Court before Judge Philip L. Sullivan late last week. The suit was filed against the country's largest railroad systems, and the trial judge reserved decision.

The case is one of several suits brought in Federal Courts throughout the country by the Red Cap union, of which Willard S. Townsend is president. The continuance of other suits involving about $3,000,000, it was said, will depend on the outcome of the present case.

The defendant railroads include: the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; Santa Fe; Chicago and Western Indiana; Illinois Central; Chicago and North Western; Pennsylvania and New York Central.

In opening the case for the Red Caps, Chief Defense Counsel Leon M. Despres told the Court that the amount of $1,600,000 represented wages due 1,068 Red Caps under the Wages and Hours Law from October 24, 1938, to June 1, 1940. Under the law, he said, the men were to receive a minimum of twenty-five cents an hour during the first year and thirty cents the following year.

"Instead of obeying the law," Mr. Despres said, "the railroads then instituted a plan whereby the Red Caps were to report the weekly total of tips collected, and if the total did not amount to the minimum, the railroads would make up the difference.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BACK PAY FIGHT NEARS END; PLAN MORE WAGE SUITS

FEB 8 - 1941

CHICAGO, Feb. 6—In a courtroom packed with red caps, station officials, railroad executives and many interested observers, the dramatic nine-day trial of the $1,600,000 wage recovery suit instituted by approximately 1,100 red cay members of the United Transport Service Employees Union against 8 major railroad companies before the U. S. District Court at Chicago ended Wednesday, January 29, with an oral order by Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan granting 60 days for the filing of briefs by both sides, after which time a decision will be rendered in the historic wage suit.

The brilliant and masterly presentation of the case by Leon M. Despres, General Counsel for the United Transport Service Employees Union, left no doubt in the minds of the many court room observers as to the merits of the red caps contention for 18 months unpaid wages under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Mr. Despres was assisted in the direct handling of the case by Associate Counsel, M. J. Myers of Chicago. Serving in an advisory capacity were Attorney George E. C. Hayes of Washington; George Roewer, Boston; Theodore Berry, Cincinnati and Fred Mandel of Cleveland. Preparations are being made by these attorneys to handle similar suits in their respective sections of the country. Railroads included in this suit were: New York Central, Pennsylvania, Illinois Central, Western Indiana, Santa Fe, Northwestern, Rock Island and Milwaukee roads.

President Willard S. Townsend was the first witness called to the stand for the red caps. Mr. Townsend's testimony dealt with the historical background and general situation among red caps throughout the country and the circumstances leading to the institution of the suits by the union. Other witnesses called by the union were: Arthur Moon, E. L. Robinson, Horace Hale, Morris Socks, Robert Hood, R. E. Tucker, James Nichols, Eugene Shepard, Raymond Stevens and Robert Chapman, Jr., of Chicago; Emanuel Keiffer of New Orleans; Felix Braxton, Jackson, Miss.; John Bowers and Ezra Parrott of New York City; Stephen Wright, Baltimore; Elmer Traynham and Ira Valentine, Pittsburgh; I. A. Holder, Buffalo; L. W. Felix Braxton of Jackson, Miss. Braxton vividly portrayed the hardship under which he and other red caps had to work. He testified that although only making 40 and 50 cents a day in tips, he was compelled, under threat of discharge, to report to company officials tips equal to the minimum wage established by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Another high light of the trial came when Attorney Theodore Schmidt, representing the Pennsylvania Railroad attempted to introduce as evidence in the case a brief filed by the UTSEA before the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1938 in the employee status case of red caps. After argument in support of introducing this brief as evidence, Judge Sullivan ruled that it was incompetent evidence and not admissable.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LIFE IS THREATENED AS ELECTION NEARS FOR SECTION CREWS

SEP 20 1941 35-e

CHICAGO, Sept. 18 — Facing a constant stream of violent threats against the life of its Southern Regional Director, Nebraska Jones, the United Transport Service Employes of America (unaffiliated) appealed to Governor Stefford Holland of Florida and United States Attorney-General Francis S. Biddle in an effort to insure the holding of a peaceful democratic election to be conducted by the National Mediation Board within the next few days among the maintenance-of-way employes of the Florida East Coast Railroad.

The election is to determine the collective bargaining agency for the approximately 800 track laborers on the Florida East Coast railroad, and is contested by the UTSEA and the Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes, an AFL affiliate. Due to the racial discriminatory practices of the AFL brotherhood, nearly 75 per cent of the employes have authorized UTSEA representation, union spokesmen declared. An overwhelming percentage of the company's track laborers are Negroes.

LIFE THREATENED

Jones, formerly industrial secretary for the Memphis (Tenn.) Urban League and a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, has been in charge of the UTSEA southern organizational drive among the track laborers since March of this year. Last week he was taken into custody by the police at Okeechobee, Fla., for questioning concerning his organizational activities in that area. He was later released when the police learned that his activities were bonafide and not contrary to the laws of the State. Jones accused local leaders of the Maintenance-of-Way brotherhood as solely responsible for the arrest.

ASK NMB TO JOIN APPEAL

Since then a series of threats have been made against the life of Jones, the source of which union officials have not ascertained.

In the appeal to Governor Holland and Attorney-General Biddle for State and federal protection for Jones and other union wrkers, UTSEA International Secretary-Treasurer John L. Yancey cited the section of the Railway Labor Act which provides that "employes shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing" and asked that "the lives of these workers . . who seek to exercise their basic rights in our democracy be protected and that you lend your influence and authority to the holding of a peaceful election under the guidance of the National Mediation Board for the determination of the lawful representatives of maintenance-of-way employes of the Florida East Ceast Railroad."

Following this appeal to State and federal authorities, Mr. Yancey called upon Robert F. Cole, secretary of the National Mediation Board to join the UTSEA in its petition to these authorities in order that "we may have a peaceful election on this property without threats or acts of violence."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

GIVES RANDOLPH 'GREEN LIGHT' FOR SAKE OF HARMONY

SEP 27 1941

CHICAGO, Sept. 25—Seeking to avoid any move which would add unnecessary confusion to the complex problems of the Negro locomotive firemen in the South, the United Transport Service Employes of America, this week, withdrew its organization efforts in support of the drive being conducted by the Brotherhod of Sleeping Car Porters among the same class of Negro railroad workers, it was announced by UTSEA president, Willard S. Townsend.

According to the official announcement, the UTSEA will maintain its present organization among the locomotive firemen on the Florida East Coast railroad, but other Negro firemen groups will be referred to the Porters' organization. In doing this, the UTSEA plans to strengthen its campaign among Maintenance of Way employes and other groups where there is a lack of effective democratic organization for Negro railroad workers, Mr. Townsend declared.

DENIES CONFLICT

This announcement followed a letter to President A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in which Mr. Townsend declared that rumors had reached the UTSEA which hinted of a conflict between the Porters' Union and the UTSEA over the organization of Negro locomotive firemen. "In this connection," Mr. Townsend stated, "we want to assure you and your organization that any conflict, real or imaginary, that may have developed over the organization of Negro locomotive firemen is purely accidental and the result of general misunderstanding. And moreover, does not reflect any desire on our part to create differences with labor organizations who have established adequate and effective organizational mechanisms for Negroes in the railroad industry.

"Early in February of this year, our union opened an organizational drive among the Negro locomotive firemen in the south . . because we felt that some immediate attention should be given to the problems of these railroad workers, who are rapidly vanishing from the railway industry. Cognizant of the complexity of these problems, our only desire in opening this campaign was to perform a primary organizational service which hitherto had been lacking among this class of Negro railroad workers.

WANTS HARMONY

"As our sole interest is one of seeing effective organization among the locomotive firemen," Mr. Townsend's letter continued, "we do not subscribe to any campaign of confusion through dual organization. The bonafide problems of these Negro workers are too great for us or any one else to create additional ones, which can be intelligently avoided.

"Thus in the interest of harmony and a much needed unity of action, we wish to state that we are withdrawing our organizational efforts among the Negro locomotive firemen in order that the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters can move unhampered in developing effective trade union organization among this particular class of employes," the letter concluded.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

COAST GROUPS DESERT A.F.L. JIM CROWISM

Mediation Board Certifies Transfer Of Power To New Agency

OCT 11 1941

SAN FRANCISCO. — Th last citadel of A.F.L. jim crow unionism among red caps crumbled this week when the National Mediation Board of the U. S. Department of Labor certified the United Transport Service Employees of America as the collective bargaining agency for the red caps and station porters of the Southern Pacific Railroad company and the Ogden (Utah) Depot company.

Certification for two other railroad companies, the Los Angeles Union Terminal company and the Pacific Railroad company is expected within the next few days, U.T.S.E.A. spokesmen stated.

The certification of the U.T.S.E.A. on these properties extends the contract and certification mileage of the union among station porters to approximately 100,000 operating miles of Class I railroads and brings within its contractual confines over 85 per cent of the major railroad companies employing an appreciable number of porters, union leaders declared.

OCT 11 1941

Early in February of this year, the American Federation of Labor ordered all A.F.L. federal locals of red caps on the West Coast to turn in their federal charters and apply for "auxiliary" charters from the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, a jim crow A.F.L. affiliate, who was demanding jurisdiction over these employees. They were given until March 1 to comply with this order.

However, the employees rejected this effort to restrict their union rights and immediately applied to the U.T.S.E.A. for affiliation.

Under the leadership of General Chairman John R. Hoskins and James A. Gray, president of the big Los Angeles local, over 90 per cent of the employees joined in the transfer of membership to the U.T.S.E.A.

In March, the U.T.S.E.A. invoked the services of the National Mediation Board to legally determine the collective bargaining agency for these groups, which precipitated a six months controversy with the Clerks' union over representation.

The Board assigned Otto F. Beyer, board member, to the case, who in his investigation found that a large majority of the employees had designated the U.T.S.E.A. as their collective bargaining agency.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT

The withdrawal of the United Transport Service Employees of America from the organizational drive among Negro locomotive firemen to make way for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters shows a spirit which has too often been sadly lacking in Negro life.

In a letter to A. Philip Randolph of the porters organization, President Willard S. Townsend of the red caps organization expressed the desire of his union not to confuse the basic issue of unionization by rival drives for membership.

The important thing, of course, is to get the Negro firemen unionized and affiliated with some powerful labor group like the Brotherhood so they may be better protected in the jobs which they have been progressively losing through white pressure, both by unions and employers.

Unless these firemen are organized to fight effectively, they will have no jobs at all in a very few years.

Would that a lot of our other organizations doing good work of various sorts but often conflicting with each other, would learn from this example how to share the work and honors for the larger good.

351-1941

UNITED TRANSPORT SERVICE EMPLOYES OF AMERICA
(RED CAPS)

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Secretary Of Labor Perkins Does About Face In Dispute Between Lillywhite Union And The Red Caps

APR 12 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Perkins has done an about face in the running dispute between the lily-white Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the United Transport Service Employes of America (Red Caps).

On January 2, she wrote Robert F. Cole, secretary of the National Mediation Board, here, advising "there is merit to their (Red Caps) claim to participate in the selection of labor members of the National Railroad Adjustment Board".

Acting upon this letter, Mr. Cole, under date of February 11, notified the members of the National Mediation Board to appoint a board of three to consider the claim of the Red Caps.

Immediately after this letter was issued, George M. Harrison, grand president of the lily-white Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and recently-appointed member of the super-mediation board by President Roosevelt, wrote a vigorous protest to Secretary Perkins denying that there was a dispute between his union and the Red Caps, and denying that the Red Caps had any claim to consideration whatsoever.

As a result of the Harrison letter, Secretary Perkins wrote again to the National Mediation Board stating, "I should like to withdraw this letter (January 2) pending a further investigation, and shall be glad to have your acknowledgement of this request." At the same time, Miss Perkins wrote George Harrison stating that the whole matter had been handled by Assistant Secretary of Labor McLaughlin; but "to make certain that a full investigation is made and that the correct procedure has been followed, I am writing Mr. Cole, asking him to withdraw the letter of January 2."

APR 12 1941

Says She's Been Bulldozed

The action of Secretary Perkins is interpreted to mean that she has been bulldozed by Harrison into supporting his side of the argument against the Red Caps union, which is fighting for its life against the greatest possible opposition.

Until the Red Caps union was formed, Harrison's union exhibited no interest in the welfare of the Red Caps whatsoever. The Harrison union has a clear statement in its Constitution provding that only "white males" are eligible for membership.

But as soon as the Red Caps, under President Willard S. Townsend of Chicago, began to gain members and some little strength, Harrison stepped in, claiming jurisdiction over the Red Caps, offering them, not membership in the union, but an auxiliary jim crow charter under full control of his union. The jim crow charter gives the Red Caps no power whatsoever; they cannot attend conventions, introduce resolutions, vote, or have anything to say about their wages, hours, and working conditions.

All these matters will be left in the hands of "white father" Harrison.

APR 12 1941

As evidence of Harrison's true attitude, the Red Caps cite a letter which he wrote December 31, 1940, to John R. Hoskins, of Oakland, Cal., in which he said: "Jurisdiction over railroad station employes belongs to this brotherhood.... frankly the thing for you to do is to get into this organization and discontinue arguing about what has passed or what your status may be. We have no intention of revising our Constitution and laws to meet the views of any group of people who are not in affiliation."

APR 12 1941

President Townsend, of the Red Caps organization, left here April 5 to consult with Walter White, NAACP secretary in New York, on cooperation of the NAACP in support of the Red Caps' fight. The NAACP already has sent $100 as a contribution toward legal expenses in cases now being carried on by the Red Caps.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

STATION PORTERS CONTEND PUBLIC IS BEING MULCTED

APR 12 1941

Terminals Say Plan is To Avoid Controversy With Wage-Hour Law

APR 12 1941

Vigorous opposition against the 10-cent carrier fee for each parcel charged passengers by certain railroad terminals as a plan by which the public and the "red caps" are being mulcted and their relationship impaired was expressed on Friday before the Interstate Commerce Commission by counsel of the United Transport Service Employees of America.

No less hearty was the contention of attorney for the Cincinnati Union Terminal Company, against whom the action was directed, that the plan was a "sincere effort to avoid controversy with the Wage and Hour Law and the red caps."

Efforts of the red caps to have the 10-cent fee abolished was characterized by the terminal's attorney as an attempt by them to get "double wages."

The arguments in behalf of the UTSEA were presented to three of the commission's eleven members by Attorneys Leon M. Despres and M. J. Myers, both of Chicago, and who in 1938 were successful in establishing the status of the red caps as railroad "employees."

APR 12 1941

Under Advisement

The trio which listened to the arguments for three hours included: Commissioners Allredge, Johnson, and Mahaffie. At the conclusion, it was announced that the matter would be taken under advisement.

Approximately 100 persons listening to the proceedings included: Willard S. Townsend, international president of the UTSEA; Alexander Dozier, secretary of the Chicago Joint Council; John L. Yancy, secretary-treasurer, International Union; railroad officials, local red caps, and other interested persons.

The hearing was a test action arranged by the UTSEA with the assistance of Mrs. Ida Stopher, of Cincinnati, who made a trip from that city to Indianapolis and refused to pay the 10-cent carrier fee imposed upon her.

The principal issue about which the arguments revolved was whether or not the service of a red cap should rightfully be considered a part of the transportation charge or be considered separately like that of the barbershop, luncheonette, check room, etc.

Relations Impaired

Mr. Despres delved into the historical progress of the controversy. He recalled pertinent points on the question of coercion and intimidation practiced by some terminals in forcing the red caps, under the 10-cent plan, to report a minimum of tips at the end of the day, whether actually earned or not, in order to cover their wages.

"Our relationship with the public is much worse as a result of the 10-cent charge," said Mr. Despres. "The public says the union forced this ten cents on them and the relationship is impaired."

APR 12 1941

The opposition asserted that the service of the red cap is optional and not included in the transportation costs. Mr. Despres had emphasized that when the red cap service was organized in 1895 or 1896, no fees were charged, the recipient giving a gratuity or not, according to his feeling.

The commissioners showed particular interest in an order issued to the red caps under the 10-cent plan to the effect that any one refusing to pay should be taken to the station master or whoever was in charge at the time.

Just how was the red cap going to do this to a public passenger, the board was curious to know. Numerous hypothetical cases were presented to counsel for the terminal involving refusals to pay. He asserted that only a small part of the public had complained of the 10-cent charge.

Tips Are Pittance

Terminal counsel was also asked why was not the plan more extensively publicized and whether or not it was the intention of the company to give the impression to to the public that the porter received the amounts taken in. The commissioners were told that placards around the station and cards distributed through the trains informed the public of the charge.

Counsel for the terminal also attempted to show, in his "double wage" allegation, that tips averaged around, in some cases, to as much as $50 or $60 a month. Mr. Despres in his rebutal asserted that such was not true, that investigation revealed that tips amounted from nothing a day to 50 cents.

APR 12 1941

In his arguments, Mr. Myers dealt principally with legal precedents supporting the contention of the red caps that the service is covered in the transportation charges.

Optimism was expressed during a meeting of the red caps later in the day at Hotel Henry that the commissioners would give them a favorable decision.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Red Caps

CAYTON SURPRISED TO SEE 'EM ORGANIZE . . . THEY'RE DOING SWELL

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

ONE of the interesting union developments in recent years has been the rise of the United Transport Service Employees of America (which to the uninitiated means the Red Caps' union). Although the union is only about three years old, at a meeting in 1940, 100 delegates representing 60 local unions of the brotherhood met in convention in New York City to review its progress and to plan the future course of the organization. I, for one, was surprised to see the Red Caps organize. Long a stop-gap form of employment for ambitious doctors of philosophy and medicine it seemed to me that the group was so hetrogeneous and ambitious to find employment in more lucrative and prestige-bearing fields that I thought it would be as difficult to organize them as it would to interest a number of young improvished Negro doctors in socialized medicine.

MAY 17 1941

Mr. Cayton

Today, however, even the most skeptive must admit that the Red Caps organization is one of the most energetic and forceful labor group in the Negro community. Nor is it proper to refer to it as a Negro labor group as there are white and Japanese Red Caps, all united under a Negro president. This latter feat, that of organizing Japanese into labor unions with Negroes, was as difficult as it would be to get Jews to join in with Negroes in a fight against restrictive residential covenants. The officers deserve special commendation for this achievement.

BAGS AND BAGGAGE

And speaking about the officers they seem, to put it rather mildly, a most energetic crew. For example, although I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Townsend I am certainly aware of his presence here in Chicago. Just recently he ran for Congress on the Democratic primary and he apparently speaks in some meeting in some city every night.

MAY 17 1941

MR. ERNEST CALLOWAY, the educational director, in between issuing many educational pamphlets such as: "The Birth of a Union"; "Facts Behind the Railroad's 10-cent Bag Fee"; "The Red Caps Struggle for a Livelihood"; "The Theory and Practices of Collective Bargaining"—edits a most informative and well written newspaper called "Bags and Baggage." There is no doubt that this is the best example of Workers Education in a Negro trade union or at least a trade union in which Negro predominate. Incidentally when Mr. Calloway is not busy with the above numerous tasks he takes time off to be a conscious objector and has threatened to go to prison before serving in a jim-crow army. Mr. Calloway takes his role as a Negro just as seriously as he does his union activities.

MAY 17 1941

CHANGING STATUS

One of the most immediate fight of the newly formed union in 1938 was to change the status of its Red Cap members from what they termed a "privileged trespasser" or an "independent concessionnaire" to that of a bonafied worker, so that they might not be excluded from all social and labor legislation designed to improve the living and working standards of railroad workers. To depend for a livelihood on tips was precarious as the tips varied from day to day and from season to season, and were never sufficient to provide a decent standard of living.

MAY 17 1941

ONE OF the first acts of the union was to petition the Interstate Commerce Commission to determine the status of Red Caps and declare whether they fell within the meaning of the term "employe" as used in the Railway Labor Act. The I.C.C. then asked the various railroads to report on the duties of Red Caps and the result of this questionnaire caused the I.C.C. to substantiate the charges of the Union and declare Red Caps to be bonified employees.

With this ruling from the Commission the Red Caps with the status of an employee had recourse to the provisions of the Railway Labor Act and they then made appeal to the National Mediation Board for recognition of their organizations as the collective bargaining agent for employees of the industry. Since then the United Transport Service Employees Union has invoked the service of the National Mediaton Board 21 times.

AGAINST 10c FEE

The present fight of the union is against the 10-cent fee placed upon passengers by the railroads for the handling of the luggage by Red Caps. Now that they have been recognized as bonafide employes they are demanding an actual wage. Another fight which the union finds itself in is against membership raids by other Internationals. Just recently the Brothedhood of Railway Clerks attempted to take over jurisdiction of some of their locals.

MAY 17 1941

THIS SHOWS what can be done by Negro workers when circumstances force them to give up the idea of becoming doctors or lawyers and when imaginative leadership is present. Certainly if the Red Caps can organize there is some hope for even more homogeneous groups.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Helms Uses False Statement Against Negro Labor Organization

352

MIAMI, Fla.—In the meeting of the Negro Firemen on the Florida East Coast held last week, Mrs. Jessie Helms, white representative of the Firemen on the Florida East Coast, accused the United Transport Service Employees of America of being supported by some unnamed white group seeking to take the Negro firemen's jobs.

Mrs. Helms, who two weeks ago was defeated as representative of the Train Porters on the Florida East Coast, by the strong U. T. S. E. A. International Union, in an election held by the National Mediation Board, was using this opportunity to frighten the Negro firemen, as a means of keeping them from joining the Negro union.

MAY 30 1941

In answer to Mrs. Helms' statement, Nebraska Jones, Regional Director of the U. T. S. E. A., Southern Regional Office, here in Miami, stated as follows: "Mrs. Helms knows, as well as anyone else in the country who knows anything about the labor movement, that the U. T. S. E. A. is an all colored union and it does not need any support from any other group regardless of color. Mrs. Helms is collecting $2 per month from the Negro firemen and she is only trying to preserve this income." Jones further stated that any agreement existing between the Florida East Coast and the Negro firemen cannot be changed unless agreed to by a majority of the firemen, and as long as there is a controversy existing as to who should represent the firemen, no existing agreement can be changed until the National Mediation Board settles the controversy."

The United Transport Service Employees of America started its organizing campaign here some three months ago in order to give the Negro laborers on the Florida East Coast bonafide union protection or the security of their jobs. It is a known fact that while labor organizations throughout the country are seeking to displace all classes of Negro railroad employees in the railroad industry, the U. T. S. E. A. is the only union that is seeking to protect the Negro's jobs and is the only all Negro organization that can protect the Negro's jobs.

MAY 30 1941

In the short span of five years, the organization has proved itself a champion of the Negro's cause in the labor movement. It is only natural that enemies of the organization will use every argument they can in order to hinder its progress.

35i-1941

VIRGINIA

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
February 5, 1941

Discrimination Against Negro Union Assailed

Peninsula Labor Group Says Colored Workers Barred on Defense Work

A vigorous protest, backed by a demand for an immediate investigation, was made yesterday by the officers and members of the Peninsula Trade and Labor Union against alleged open and discriminatory practices against Negroes by all contractors holding national defense contracts on the Virginia Peninsula.

The Peninsula Trade and Labor Union, an organization of 250 Negro skilled mechanics, complained particularly against the situation at Fort Eustis, but said the same condition applies to every defense project in the vicinity.

Text of Protest

The text of the statement issued by the colored labor group follows:

"We, the undersigned officers and members of the Peninsula Trade and Labor Union, an organization of 250 Negro skilled mechanics, voice our indignant protest against the open and discriminatory practices of all contractors holding Government national defense contracts on the Virginia Peninsula. We specifically call your attention to the defiant attitude of the contractors' executive officer and sole hiring agent at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in refusing to employ any skilled Negro workmen on the Fort Eustis defense project.

"In December, 1940, at the request of Fort Eustis contractors, the Virginia State Employment Office in Newport News issued an urgent radio call for 1,200 carpenters. All Negro carpenters who applied were informed by E. P. Hornlein, employment manager, that no Negroes were wanted.

"On January 31, a call for 2,000 carpenters was issued through the same source. All Negro carpenters who responded were emphatically told again that Negroes were not wanted.

"The same situation applies to every skilled trade on defense projects in this vicinity.

Official representatives of this union have repeatedly, by personal conference, sought employment for skilled Negro craftsmen, with no success.

"We urgently request an immediate investigation of the situation at Fort Eustis and other defense projects in this area.

"As loyal American citizens, we demand the right to contribute our skills in the cause of national defense, as well as our lives, if necessary.

Officers and Members

Charles Hill, president; P. B. McCowan, vice president; Isaac Johnson, business manager; Gray Ansen, secretary; Herbert Rice, assistant secretary; Samuel Ross, treasurer; Mercer Fauntleroy, chaplain; George Sturdevant, sergeant-at-arms; S. Rice, parliamentarian; Jessie Applewhite, Richard Barcliss, Thomas Banks, Chester Barnett, Charles Banes, Joseph Bailey, Philip Banks, David Bluford, Ulysses Bluford, Lionel Bell, Philip Corbin, Wm. Sidney Coombs, Arlington Chismon, Leon Copeland, Harold Coombs, James Carr, Theodore Carr, James Corbin, William Clarkson, Abraham Davis, Fred Drummond, Troussiant Debrick, Solomon Dickerson, Bennie Draper, William Dillard, Peter Dennis, Van Orbrick, George Booker, Paul Braxton, Charles Barber, Andrew Bowen, Leonard Evans, Archer Ferguson, Leroy Foster, Harold Foster, C. P. Ferguson, Douglas Fields, Willis Griffin, Harrison Goodman, Cornelius Hope, Lewis Hawkins, C. Holland, George Hickman, Andrew Hayes, Robert Holmes, Grafton Hall, Robert Howard, Lewis Harchett, John Hatchett, Hallis Johnson, George Jarvis, Lsaac Johnson, Milton Jarvis, John Jones, John Jefferson, Henry Jackson, Frank Lee, Bant Lee, Robert Lawrence, William Lattimore, William Manden, Frank Mitchell, James Mason, Jerry Mitchell, W. Morris Daniel, Neal Fred, Olney H. Powell, George Porger, Richard Pleasant, Sandy Porter, John Poole, W. I. Peele, James Robinson, Robert Sherman, Stanley Roberts, James Russell, Theodore Redcross, Lewis Reid, James Russell, Albert Russell, Obidah Rhodes, James Ransome, Robert Spriggs, C. Stewart George, Sedgewick Daniel, Speller W. Stevens, George Sturdevant, James Tanner, George Taylor, John Taliaferro, Walter Thornton, Newton Taliaferro, Alfred Tinsley, Alvin Thornton, Thomas Tofponci, H. Owens, chairman of training; John Senter, chairman of finance; the Rev. J. B. Clower, Jr., chairman of health and safety, and DeKoven King, district commissioner.

Other members of the several committees are listed below, as follows:

Camping, Russell Gimbert, Sidney Kellam and Wallace T. Clarke; Scout advancement, A. A. Boothe, O. S. Chaplain, Warren Williamson, Percy W. White, Dr. T. L. Brooks, Jr., Henry Reichling and Wallace Clarke; training, H. L. Cayce, John B. Senter, J. T. Crosswhite, H. E. Poole and the Rev. L. W. Meachum.

Finance, Frank W. Kellam, C. H. Spence, C. W. Cashman, B. W. Shelton, Jr., Floyd E. Kellam, R. G. Mooney and Wade Kornegay; organization and extension, Frank Fentress, G. W. Whitehead and Reginald Whitehurst, and health and safety, George S. Broun, Dr. I. L. Hancock and F. T. Deary.

Dr. King will be assisted by Russell Hatchett and Marion Bright, the two field commissioners for the district.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro And White Textile Workers Of Roanoke, Va., Win Fight For Real Unity

ROANOKE, Va.,—Because officials of the International Textile Workers of America (CIO) Local here and leaders of the Local Council of the National Negro Congress refused to admit defeat, old Jim Crow has been wiped out in the Trade Union movement in this city.

J. H. Tyree, President of the Local Council of the Congress announced this week that victory had been made possible because both of the groups refused to give up until every Jim Crow barrier separating Negro and white workers had been broken down.

JUL 17 1941

Following a series of negotiations between officials of the Council and officers of the Union, Negro workers are now eligible to run for office in the Union, meet together with their fellow white workers in the Union meeting hall, serve on committees, and enjoy every privilege open to any union member. In addition to this the nine dollar initiation fee has been eliminated, he said.

JUL 17 1941

"Wiping out of Jim Crow," Tyree said, "represents a tremendous victory for all of us. We have now removed the sore spot that has kept the Negro and white textile workers divided. We now have the real unifying force for strengthening the whole Trade Union movement in this section."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Electrician Wins U.S. Job Despite Union Race Bans

35-1

Va

WASHINGTON, July 17. (ANP)—The efforts of a young Negro electrician to offer his services to the defense program, despite obstacles placed in his way by a local union of Norfolk, Va., were crowned with success when he was hired as a construction electrician at the Norfolk Navy yard.

JUL 19 1941

The young man, [illegible] Shelton, a [illegible] electrician in Charleston, W. Va., was given employment by the Norfolk Navy Yard board after he had written President Roosevelt protesting against defense bias in his own community.

Shelton charged that Local 466 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers had refused to grant him membership because of his race and had thereby barred him from defense employment in that area. His case was referred to the Negro employment and training section of OPM which is headed by Dr. Robert C. Weaver.

A short while later, Shelton was summoned by the Norfolk Navy Yard board and given a civil service job [illegible] immediately began work on electrical repairs on the S.S. America and the Aircraft Carrier Alabama.

JUL 19 1941

WORK IN HARMONY

Although he is the only Negro member of a construction crew composed mainly of natives of Texas, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina, Shelton recently informed associates that he had experienced no difficulty at all. He was placed in charge of two white electricians and one white electricians' helper.

One other Negro electrician and four Negro electricians' helpers are at work in the plant. There are further openings in the yard in these capacities and for welders and welders' helpers.

JUL 19 1941

Negroes qualified for work in these fields have been requested to file civil service application for employment at the yard. Applications can be made at the Norfolk Navy yard itself, or received through mail by communication with the Norfolk Navy Yard board.

Helpers receive as high as $35 a week and full-fledged mechanics make more than $52 weekly.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Longshoremen Win Increase In Pay Rate

Strike Is Settled After Temporary Agreement Made

35-1

NORFOLK—Local dock workers returned to their jobs Tuesday, following a strike for increase in wages called last Sunday, when a compromise agreement was reached with officials of the Eastern Steamship Lines.

At the Sunday meeting of the workers, including checkers, timekeepers, maintenance of ways men and foremen, the strike was called for Monday morning.

JUL 26 1941

About 50 of the men involved in the strike responded when it was first called. Later, however over 250 colored longshoremen decided they would join their fellow dockworkers.

COLORED WORKERS

All longshoremen, a few checkers, and maintenance of ways men involved in the strike are colored. The longshoremen are classified as "coastwise" dockworkers as distinguished from the "deep sea" workers. About 3,000 colored union longshoremen work in the port of Hampton Roads.

The checkers contended they had been promised a wage increase since last February.

ASK 20 PER CENT RAISE

New York employees of the same company are receiving $32.50 a week while the Norfolk scale for the same work is $27. They asked a 20 per cent increase.

The longshoremen made no demands at first, but said their case was similar. Comparison was made with the recent increase given fellow workers at Newport News and Richmond. Finally, they likewise agreed to ask for a 20 per cent raise.

JUL 26 1941

The strike ended when representatives of about 300 dock workers in local terminals met with company officials and reached a compromise agreement of a 10 per cent raise on a temporary arrangement.

..The strikers were members of two unions, it was learned, one being known as "Independent 1293," and not affiliated with either the CIO or AFL. The other is affiliated with the International Longshoremen's Association, an AFL division.

Eastern Lines' schedule for this week was cut from four to three sailings as a result of the strike.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
January 14, 1941

VIRGINIA'S ANTI-LYNCH LAW

1. Give an account of lynching done in Virginia in the past fifty or sixty years. Answer: Since 1882, one record shows that sixteen white people and eighty-three Negroes have been lynched in this State. Almost all of these lynchings took place between 1882 and 1902. From 1902 until 1918, the State had no lynchings at all. There were seven between 1918 and 1927. Since 1927, none has occurred in Virginia.

2. When was Virginia's anti-lynch law passed and what are its provisions?—Daily Reader, Richmond. Answer: The bill was signed into law by Governor Harry Byrd in 1928. According to its provisions, each member of a mob which injures a person is subj.ect to imprisonment of not less than one year or more than ten years. If the victim is killed, every member of the mob is liable to trial for murder. Civil damages may be claimed by the family of the victim from any participant in a mob. Where a lynching occurs, the Governor is authorized to designate the Attorney General, or other special attorney, to assist in the prosecution, and he is empowered to spend whatever sums may be necessary "for the purpose of seeking out the identity and apprehending the members of such guilty mob."

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
April 5, 1941

Negro Carpenters Will Have Union

A Negro local of the carpenters' union will be given a charter at 2 East Marshall Street on Wednesday night at 8 o'clock, H. Y. Morse, business agent for Local No. 388, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, announced today.

Mr. Morse will preside at the installation of the new local to be known as No. 917, and will be assisted by W. A. Hall, of the Urban League, who has aided with the organization.

Mr. Morse said that twenty-three Negro mechanics already have signed up and that he expects about forty charter members. This is the third Negro local of the union in Virginia. The others are in Norfolk and Newport News.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Alston Renamed To Board

MAY 24 1941

Ten Elected Vice Presidents Of Federation

NORFOLK — The unanimous re-election of David Alston to the executive board with the title of "delegate-at-large," and the election of ten colored delegates as vice presidents of the Virginia Federation of Labor, were highlights of the Tuesday morning session of the annual convention of the body held at the City Auditorium.

Named as vice presidents to function in their various cities were: Joseph Speed of Alexandria, Va., representing the Hod Carriers and Builders Union; L. O. Morgan of Petersburg, representing Tobacco Workers Local No. 188; M. J. Smith, Samuel A. Gallop, Lacy Fields, Sr., all of Norfolk, representing Norfolk locals of the International Longshoremen's Association; William Ellis and L. Bowman, representing ILA locals Lawrence and Jacob Williams of Portsmouth.

Mr. Alston was elevated to the executive board for the second time. his election at the annual convention last year marking the first time in 41 years that a colored delegate had been so honored.

OTHER OFFICERS

Other officers of the State Federation were named at the Tuesday morning session as follows: O. C. Moore of Norfolk, reelected president; E. J. Shaves of Hampton, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Sallie D. Clinebell of Lynchburg, first vice president.

Approximately 100 colored delegates were officially registered for the annual meeting. These included groups representing ILA Locals Nos. 1624, 1532, 1248, 987, 984, 1379, 1458, and 1221 from Norfolk: Locals 846 and 1021, from Newport News: Tobacco Workers Local 188, Petersburg; Chemical Workers Local 22273, Norfolk; Agricultural Workers No. 57, Norfolk; Cooks and Waiters Local, Portsmouth; Hod Carriers and Builders Locals 74-745 and 1079; Meat Cutters Local 432 of Richmond; Dock Builders and Pile Drivers Local 567, Norfolk.

The representative colored delegation was praised as a progressive group at the Tuesday morning session in an address by Paul J. Smith of Washington, D. C., ranking official of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Smith appeared here as personal representative of William Green, president of the AFL.

"I know that here in Virginia the Federation is proud to have you included among their membership," Mr. Smith said. "It signifies the end of the time when industrial overlords will be able to play one race against the other. The educational program of the AFL has sought to bring about the unity of the two races," he declared.

POLICY REAFFIRMED

Previously, at the Monday evening session, the labor federation had reaffirmed the policy of the A. F. of L. in demanding equal pay for equal work regardless of race or sex. The action was taken on one of a set of ten resolutions adopted by the body.

The convention heard C. E. Haury, of Washington, pledge the loyalty of the federation "to the interests of the nation." He declared that the AFL would not call any strikes during the emergency.

HARRIS SPEAKS

'Highlight of the opening session was the address of Congressman Winder R. Harris of the second Virginia District, who praised the efforts of organized labor and declared that no group in the national defense program was more important.

"I would suggest to you," he said, "in this convention give to the defense program your sincere and earnest attention and one hundred per cent support."

All recommendations read in the opening session were adopted wtihout objections and the seating of the delegates was not contested. However, the Rev. W. H. Bowe, business representative of the local Pile Drivers and Dock Builders, obtained the floor after the resolutions had been adopted and asked for an additional resolution specifying an equalization contract for all members.

PROMISED CONSIDERATION

The chair assured the Norfolk minister that such a resolution had been considered and would be presented to the convention before it adjourned.

A banquet was held for the colored delegates on Monday night at the Longshoremen's Hall, at Wide Street and Princess Anne Road.

The convention closed with a business session on Tuesday which included the election of officers and the final disposition of the resolutions.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Reelected

David Alston, who was reelected to the executive board of the Virginia State Federation of Labor at the annual meeting here this week. Mr. Alston is the only colored member of the board.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
October 11, 1941

Labor Breaks a Contract

A LARGE measure of public confidence and good will has been lost by organized labor in this area, as a consequence of the frank announcement by the Negro processors' union at the Larus & Brother Company plant that despite their contract, which binds them not to strike, "the risk of crossing a picket line would be too great" for them to return to work in accordance with the contract's terms. Hence the processors, affiliated with the C. I. O., have decided to remain "out," as long as the A. F. of L. tobacco workers' local is "out." The latter has struck for higher wages and the closed shop.

This is a serious matter, and one which reaches considerably beyond the issues immediately in controversy between the company and the two unions. It involves the sanctity of a contract, voluntarily entered into by one of those unions with the company, and, it seems to us, clearly applicable in the present situation. That contract, as quoted by the company without contradiction by the union, pledges the signatory not to cause "strikes, lockouts, or other forms of concerted action that will have for its purpose either directly or indirectly the stoppage of the business." It also commits the union against "any act contemplating interference with the regular and ordinary operations of the business."

Yet the Negro processors are engaging in what is, in fact, a sympathetic strike, by refusing to cross the picket line of the tobacco workers. The processors say they have "no grievance" against the company, but that they are "forced to take this action for our own security."

If it is true that the processors would be taking a "risk" by crossing the picket line, then the tobacco workers' union must have threatened harm to any one making such a crossing. In other words, one union is forcing another to violate its contract. If, on the other hand, no such threats have been made, and no harm would come to processors crossing the picket line, the processors either are alarmed without good reason, or they have deliberately misrepresented the situation, in order to preserve a "united front" with the tobacco workers.

Whatever, the true explanation, the whole situation is calculated to make the public lose confidence in organized labor. Unions cannot hope to command public support, if they break contracts, or force other unions to break them, under the guise of "peaceful" picketing. And if the police fail to provide adequate protection to members of a union who cross a picket line in order to carry out their contract, the police are likewise subject to severe criticism.

351-1941

WASHINGTON

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

A. C. Patterson, Negro Third Cook Costs Steamship Co. $2.000 Per Diem

SEP 20 1941

By E. I. R.

Albert C. Patterson, third cook on the steamer Baranof, stands between the devil and the deep blue sea: The crew of cooks dispatched to man the Baranoff, by the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union won't sail without him and the crew of the Marine Firemen's Union won't sail with him.

351

The steamer Baranof was scheduled to sail last Thursday for Alaskan points with a passenger list of 180 and freight for defense industries. The ship's sailing was delayed because members of the Marine Firemen's Union refused to sail with Patterson the third cook aboard. The reason assigned by some was that Paterson had a fight with some member of the Marine Firemen. The Marine Cooks and Steward's patrolman denies that Patterson could have had any fight with firemen because he never comes in contact with them while at sea.

"Nothing for publication" greeted a reporter of the Northwest Enterprise in his quest for "information please." From the outside sources which have not been denied or affirmed, a Marine fireman entered the galley in Juneau, Alaska, rent the air with cuss words directed at a follower of the Lowly Nazarene. Both cheeks were smitten, at which point the scriptural injunction ended. The Marine fireman was thoroughly mussed up and it made him mad It made some of his fellow firemen mad. Guilty or innocent, someone must pay for this undignified smearing of a fireman Innocent Patterson was their choice. The Marine Cooks and Stewards' Union say "No," and they meant just that

SEP 26 1941